

Certification Testing Information for I.S. Candidates planning to Clinical Teach Fall 2020

The current testing and exam requirements in place will be changing for any candidates clinical teaching the Spring 2021 semester and beyond. These changes will affect any candidate who delays clinical teaching beyond the Fall 2020 semester. Candidates completing the program Fall 2020 will need to be ready to apply and be recommended for teacher certification by no later than December 31, 2020. **You cannot wait until December 31st to apply**, as this will not give time to be recommended. In order to allow enough time to meet this deadline, the following need to occur:

- 1.) The only courses allowed during the clinical teaching semester are EDUC 4335, 4690 and 4383, and will need to be successfully completed by the end of the Fall 20 semester. This means that any other remaining coursework on your degree plan **needs to be completed by the end of the summer** and any transfer transcripts from other institutions must be received by Tarleton in a timely manner. You will not be permitted to take any classes other than those stated above during the clinical teaching semester. Any other outstanding coursework must be completed by the end of the summer or it will be necessary to delay clinical teaching until Spring 2021.
- 2.) Passing PPR and Content exams scores must be posted by August 1, 2020 without exception.
- 3.) Supplemental exams should be passed and scores posted by December 1st at the absolute latest. Supplementals include English as a Second Language, the Bilingual Education Supplemental, and the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test-Spanish (BTLPT) exams. It will be extremely important that you receive testing approval for any supplemental exams you need to take by no later than the end of the Block III semester at the instruction of your professor, and that you begin testing as quickly as possible. Although not required, it is strongly encouraged to have these exams passed prior to the end of the summer before the clinical teaching semester begins (keep in mind that the clinical teaching semester begins before the actual Tarleton Fall 2020 semester). You will fulfill testing requirements for supplementals in the related courses and be granted testing approval by your instructor. Bilingual candidates will receive testing approval for both exams from Dr. Castaneda and will need to keep in mind that the BTLPT exam has very specific testing windows and score posting dates.
- 4.) Graduation and degree posting in the Tarleton system must take place before you can be recommended for certification. You will attend a Certification Seminar and Reflections Ceremony in early December the day after completing clinical teaching, where Allison Andrews will walk you through the certification application process. It will be extremely important at that time for all exams to be passed so you are just waiting on graduation and degree posting for certification recommendation. The total cost of the certification application along with the criminal history background check and fingerprinting is currently approximately \$130.00, so you will want to be prepared to have the funds on hand to cover the expense.

Continued on back

- 5.) Candidates who have yet to turn in testing requirements that were due the Fall 19 semester are behind and should get the materials submitted immediately. No approvals for any exams, including supplementals, will be granted prior to submission of the initial requirements. A flag for late submission will need to be processed before documents will be forwarded to the department for testing approval.

The best advice we can give you at this time is to begin testing at the earliest possible date and to not wait too long between any necessary retakes. It is extremely important to budget your time wisely to allow for as many retakes as you feel comfortable with between now and the August 1st test score due date. *You will want to continue utilizing study materials in preparation for your exams right up until your testing date. It is not a wise idea to test without continued preparation, especially if you haven't spent any time with it since you received initial testing approval.*

Should any candidate be unable to meet the above requirements or find it necessary for any reason to delay clinical teaching until the Spring 2021 semester, an additional Science of Teaching Reading exam will be required for teacher certification recommendations made after the 12/31/20 cut-off date. The cost of this new exam is \$140.00. Additionally, a replacement exam for the #291 EC-6 Core Subjects is being adopted, and prolonged delays will require the new exam for any candidate who has not completed the program by 8/31/2021. Its cost will also be increasing to \$140.00. Any candidates caught in the exam transition may be required to test the replacement exam even if the #291 has previously been passed.

If postponing clinical teaching until Spring 2021 or beyond, **ALL** exams including supplementals must to be passed by the appropriate due for eligibility (Fall semesters 8/1, Spring semesters 12/15).

As TEA implements new rules and policies, and as new exams are adopted and old ones are retired, Educator Preparation Services is obligated to comply with the requirements set forth by the state in order to maintain the teacher education program accreditation. Our goal is to keep our candidates as informed as possible concerning impending changes to allow our candidates adequate time to plan and prepare accordingly. Impending changes will always be posted on the Educator Preparation Services website found at <https://www.tarleton.edu/eps/>.

For questions concerning **Testing**, contact Brenda Strong at 254-968-1908

For questions concerning **Certification**, contact Allison Andrews at andrews@tarleton.edu

For questions concerning **Field Experiences/Clinical Teaching**, contact Chelsea Lanier at clanier@tarleton.edu