

## FAQ for Candidates in Teacher Education

**NOTE:** Contingency plans from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and Pearson (CalTPA) are developing, and more information about how they will respond to rapidly changing conditions will evolve over time. We will continue to update this FAQ and notify you through our weekly UPDATE as news comes in. You may also consult the [CTC](#) and [Pearson](#) websites to monitor their evolving response to your needs. The CTC will be issuing a guidance document early next week, and we hope to update this FAQ when that information comes in.

**If you have additional questions**, after reading through the FAQ, please send them to us via the link at the end of this document.

### General FAQs

**Q: Will I be able to earn my credential on time?**

A: We have been in regular contact with the CTC and they are in the middle of building multiple options for teacher candidates to complete state-mandated requirements without unnecessary delays to your program completion. These plans are still evolving, and I don't want to broadcast anything that may change before official decisions are made, but please know that the CTC, Pearson, the college and the department are all committed to ensuring that the next generation of teachers can move into jobs as planned. We will continue to support each of you personally throughout the process.

**Q: What do I do if my district hasn't announced a plan for returning to instruction?**

A: Hold tight and keep in contact with your mentor. We recognize that districts are responding to the current situation at different rates. Some have already moved to online instruction, some have plans to go online in the next week or two, and some have only announced a three-week shutdown without sharing plans for what will follow.

*We also recognize the ways in which the current situation highlights deep disparities in the resources available to the schools and communities we serve. We have been keeping these concerns front and center in our interactions with the CTC and Pearson and will continue to press for assurances that solutions account for our candidates' work across all contexts.*

### Student Teaching FAQs

**Q: Can I still earn credit for student teaching this semester even if we do not return to face-to-face instruction at my school?**

A: We are working with the CTC to identify the full range of activities that can count for student teaching. The range of solutions being discussed give us full confidence that a solution will be

found. As always, we still need to ensure that you are ready to move forward in the program, but the switch to online instruction does not disqualify you from that assessment.

**Q: Is there anything I can/should be doing right now for student teaching?**

A: Yes. If your mentor teacher is preparing instruction, grading, or doing professional development to prepare for online instruction during this period, you should assist them. The hours you put in now will help prepare you to step back into your placement (via online instruction) and these hours will count towards your total hours of field experience.

**Q: What are some specific activities I might engage in during this break in instruction?**

A: The following activities are approved by the CTC to count as field experience:

- Co-planning for online instruction
- Analyzing/grading student work
- Planning for the needs of focus students
- Reflecting on instruction (past face-to-face or current online instruction)
- Working with your mentor in professional learning communities, grade level meetings and department meetings
- Working with your supervisor to observe and discuss videos of other teachers' instruction
- Delivering whole-group, small-group, or individualized online instruction
- Planning and implementing asynchronous whole-group, small-group, or individualized online instruction

**Q: What if my mentor teacher is not working during this period?**

A: Stay in regular contact with your mentor so that you can resume your work with them as soon as they return to planning and instruction. (Note: they may begin planning before schools reopen online, so you will want to join them in those preparations). In the meantime, don't worry. We are working with the CTC to explore multiple contingencies (including issues related to lost hours, CalTPA video requirements, switching to online-only instruction for the remainder of the year, etc.).

## CalTPA FAQs

**Q: What should I do about my CalTPA project?**

A: For those of you who weren't finished (or almost finished) with the CalTPA when schools closed, CalTPA is on hold for now. We are in the process of surveying the supervisors/seminar instructors to find out where each candidate is in terms of planning and teaching CalTPA. Once we know this, we will have a better idea of what your next steps might be. The steps may be different, depending on what stage you were in and your current teaching situation. For example, it may be possible to have online instruction authorized by Pearson as a way to teach

your CalTPA or to defer doing your project to another semester while still moving forward in the program.

As with student teaching, we are in conversations with the CTC about CalTPA, as they will be providing guidance about what options there will be for completing CalTPA. We want you to know that we will work this all out. It may be a bit messy, but we are not going to let the current situation derail you from completing CalTPA and getting your teaching credential.

**Q: I was finished or almost finished teaching Cycle 2. Is there anything I can do?**

A: If you have completed all of the teaching and video recordings you need to for CalTPA Cycle 2, we encourage you to submit your CalTPA by the original due date of April 9 (Elementary Education) or May 6 (Secondary Education). If you feel like you need more time to finish your project, please contact the CalTPA Coordinator (Kara Ireland D'Ambrosio in Secondary Education, or Marianne Mehuys in Elementary Education).

In addition, candidates who have completed all but the reteach/extend lesson in Cycle 2 have the option to complete that final lesson as online instruction without applying for an exemption from Pearson. In the context document, they can indicate that instruction was in part face-to-face, and in part online. In order to qualify to do this, you must be able to teach online where you can interact with students (whole class or small group) in real-time. You also must be able to provide a video clip that shows both you and your students (with video permissions) on screen.

**Q: What about paying the \$150 fee to submit my CalTPA? What if I already did? What if I haven't yet?**

A: If you have already registered and paid the \$150 fee to Pearson, your registration will stay good for another 12 months. If you need an extension beyond the 12 months, you will be able to request this. You should not have to repay the \$150.

If you have not registered and paid to submit your project, just wait. There is no need to register before you are ready to submit, whenever that happens. Registering early does not provide any advantage aside from allowing you to upload earlier.

**Q: Will there be revised CalTPA due dates?**

A: Once we know when schools will return to instruction, we will be able to set new due dates for those of you who have not started CalTPA. Pearson is currently considering adding additional due dates to provide more options for universities statewide. SJSU will choose the due dates that best work with our program and timeline. In addition, the CTC may extend the window for completing your CalTPA for those who are on track to successfully complete Phase II student teaching and graduate this semester.

**Q: Is it possible that the state will waive the CalTPA requirement?**

A: No. It is actually part of the California Education Code that all teacher candidates complete a teaching performance assessment. That being said, the CTC understands that many

candidates state-wide are not currently in a position to move forward with their CalTPA so they are considering all options for how to work with this situation.

**Q: Can I complete my Cycle 1 CalTPA via Zoom with my students?**

A: That is a possibility that is being looked into. The state is considering what guidelines there might be for online instruction of CalTPA. One thing to keep in mind is that the passing scores and standards will not change, so if online instruction is allowed, we will want to make sure that you are ready to teach in that environment and still include all of the critical elements needed for your CalTPA project. That being said, it could be an amazing opportunity for you to rethink how to deliver effective, engaging, and relevant instruction with technology!

**Q: If I can't teach Cycle 1 this semester, could I do it next semester?**

The short answer is yes. You are allowed to teach both Cycle 1 and Cycle in the same semester, and in fact some universities already do it this way normally. If we conclude that this is the best way for you to move forward at SJSU, we would work together with you and supervisors to create a semester calendar that would best address this situation.

**Additional questions?**

[Follow this link to submit additional questions or comments](#) for us to address at the Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 25 1:00-2:30