

Update Regarding Graduate Intern Hours in Response to School Closures

As both institutions of higher education and pre-K–12 schools close for weeks and potentially months, many have asked how current interns can meet the graduation requirement of 1,200 hours of field supervised experience.

As noted in a previous communication, many interns are placed in districts through employment contracts or internship agreements, and thus they may have to abide by whatever measures their districts take. However, it is the training program that typically verifies program completion and recommends individuals for credentials. Thus, determining which activities constitute completion of the internship is at the program's discretion.

The NASP Program Accreditation Board and National School Psychology Certification Board have agreed to waive the 1,200 hour requirement for all programs and graduate students on internship during this period. Given the time of year, we will require a minimum of 800 hours in direct, field-based supervised experiences, with a minimum of 400 hours in a school setting. Programs may employ flexibility on the remainder of hours.

Programs have discretion as to how many nonschool hours spent on such internship tasks as writing reports, making phone calls, researching and creating service delivery plans, planning inservices, etc., may be counted toward the 1,200-hour minimum. Should schools remain closed for the remainder of the year, some interns may still have opportunities to interact with pre-K–12 students and engage in school psychological services, even if in a nontraditional capacity. For those in districts without such opportunities, we encourage graduate programs to identify other ways to ensure that all students who complete the program develop the required knowledge and skills that align with program goals and objectives. This may include book studies, structured utilization of various NASP resources (e.g., *Communiqué*, Online Learning Center sessions, NASP podcasts), case study reviews, independent study of particular areas of competency, and so on. Programs may consider similar activities to support completion of practica, which also remains entirely up to each individual program.

NASP will send out a form for graduate programs to distribute to their current interns that will reflect this emergency waiver. You can expect to receive this form in the next month. This form must be completed and submitted by individual interns if they ever wish to submit an application for the Nationally Certified School Psychologists (NCSP) credential. **Please share this information with your students and other program faculty.** It may also be helpful to encourage your students to submit applications for the NCSP as soon as they are eligible, rather than waiting.

Note that while NASP will provide flexibility, state licensing agencies maintain authority over setting requirements for state licenses and certifications to practice. NASP will work with state associations to support advocacy for similar flexibility in the near future, though programs are encouraged to do their best to ensure graduates meet state-level credentialing requirements.

We hope everyone stays safe, and we will continue to monitor the evolving situation and adapt as needed while ensuring that we adequately prepare the future professionals in our field.