



# Cleveland State University

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College of Education and Human Services  
*Office of the Dean*

July 31, 2020

Dear Candidates,

We hope this message finds you healthy and well. This is an update to an earlier message you received in June. Thank you for your patience as the college has planned for fall field experiences, based on the evolving COVID pandemic and K-12 school reopening plans.

Due to the ever-changing public health and K-12 landscapes, it has been difficult to finalize decisions about the fall, but we have some new information to share.

1. **Safety of teacher candidates, K-12 teachers and students, and university clinical faculty.** As COVID cases have risen, many districts are moving all or most of their fall instruction online, with a small number of schools still planning to open in person. In confirming placements, OFS is working closely with district representatives to ensure that appropriate safety measures are in place.
2. **Adherence to licensing requirements.** Ohio universities have been given flexibility in meeting clinical experience requirements. At CSU, we will use this as an opportunity to explore new strategies for remote teacher learning, including professional development for online teaching; virtual observations by supervisors; tutoring and small group instruction delivered virtually; peer teaching and evaluation conducted remotely; design of asynchronous online curriculum; new tools for assessing student learning, and much more.
3. **Flexibility.** Fall experiences will differ for candidates in terms of hours, types of teaching experiences, and start dates. CSU is committed to the overall quality of your experience. Anticipate that a significant component of your fall field experience will be online instruction, either synchronous or asynchronous, with small groups of students rather than whole class. Supervisors and seminar leaders will monitor your experience and advocate on your behalf for an optimum experience.
4. **Communication.** We have tried to share new information as it has become available. Unfortunately, the shifting pandemic situation has required that we wait while partners develop plans and explore options for the fall. Please know that as soon as we have accurate information to share with you, we will do so.
5. **Commitment to assisting K-12 districts.** As our K-12 partners engage in new types of teaching and learning, they are in unfamiliar territory. With your experiences and training, you are in a position to provide much-needed services to K-12 teachers to assist with student engagement, tutoring, and assessment of student learning. We ask for your patience in working alongside mentor teachers on this journey of discovery.

We are confident that you will be a valuable asset and that you will proudly represent CSU in the field.

The following paragraphs include important information and dates that may have shifted, so please note the following:

1. **Placement information** is still being worked out by OFS. It is likely that most fall experiences will start after Labor Day, so do not panic if your placement information is confirmed after the start of the semester. Your experience will still satisfy Ohio licensure requirements. **Once the semester begins, you should be prepared to begin fieldwork during regularly scheduled internship hours on relatively short notice.**
2. **Non-Academic Prerequisites.** We have once again extended the deadline for **submitting non-academic prerequisites to August 24<sup>th</sup>** (BCI/FBI, physical, Hep B, TB tests, register for OAEs). We are planning to begin offering fingerprinting services through the advising office by appointment only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning August 11. The ESSC also has information about off-campus fingerprinting options on their web site (<https://cehs.csuohio.edu/essc/essc>). If you are having difficulty getting an updated background check or immunizations, please keep the Office of Field Services informed so that we can advise you appropriately.
3. **Licensure tests.** The requirement for Internship/Apprentice Teaching 2 candidates to take all OAE's prior to the experience is waived this fall. Instead, you should register to take all required tests and show **proof of registration by August 24<sup>th</sup>**. ODE is offering a temporary one-year license for completers who have not yet passed all required OAE exams, but this provision is currently scheduled to expire December 1. Ideally, you should have passed all tests to apply for a full four-year Resident Educator license when you finish in December.
4. **Orientation. August 20, 2020.** Regular orientation activities will be held virtually. Access information to be provided through OFS in a separate email.
5. **Postponing fall experience.** If you cannot complete a fall experience for any reason, please reach out to the Office of Field Services to discuss and talk through the available options for program completion.

We hope that this information is useful. Please know that we are committed to your success and program completion. Feel free to reach out to us to share any questions or concerns you may have. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

Sajit Zachariah  
Dean

Brian Yusko  
Associate Dean

Tachelle Banks  
Associate Dean