

Date: July 7, 2021
To: Chief Executive Officers of Institutions, BOCES, and Entities Offering Licensure-Qualifying Programs in New York State
From: Sarah S. Benson, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions
Subject: Guidelines for Licensure-Qualifying Programs

Thank you for supporting student success during the pandemic. To allow flexibility for licensure-qualifying programs, alternative methods for clinical experience were reviewed and approved for a limited period of time. The programs that were approved to use alternative methods assured the Department that, through combined methods, students would achieve clinical competencies.

Starting in fall 2021, the Department expects that licensure-qualifying programs would meet clinical experience requirements specified in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations. Alternative methods will only be considered for the clinical hours exceeding the minimal hour requirement of the clinical experience. Each individual student must meet program completion requirements, including clinical hours. Any exceptions must meet licensure requirement and follow established policies at the institution.

The Department will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further guidelines if necessary. If you have any questions, please contact opprogs@nysed.gov.