

## Item 11:

# Consider and Take Action on Clinical Teaching Exception Request

### DISCUSSION AND ACTION

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss and take action on the request by the UTeach Natural Sciences Program at the University of Texas at Austin for an exception to the clinical teaching options described in SBEC rule (19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.35(e)(2)(A) and (B)). An exception must include an alternate requirement that will adequately prepare teacher candidates for certification and ensure the teacher is effective in the classroom. The TEA staff recommends that the SBEC approve the request with conditions.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority for allowing the SBEC to propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.044(a).

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:** At the October 2016 SBEC meeting, the SBEC adopted rules that allowed for an exception to the clinical teaching options described in 19 TAC Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, §228.35, Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** Clinical teaching (also known as student teaching) allows candidates to apply their knowledge and skills in a supervised teaching assignment in preparation for a standard teaching certificate after completing initial coursework and training through an educator preparation program (EPP). During a clinical teaching assignment, a teacher candidate works with an experienced cooperating teacher who guides, assists, and supports the candidate in areas such as planning, classroom management, instruction, and assessment. The teacher candidate also works with an experienced field supervisor who observes the candidate, monitors the candidate's performance, and provides constructive feedback to improve the candidate's effectiveness as a teacher.

Prior to December 27, 2016, the minimum length of a clinical teaching assignment was either 12 weeks of full days or 24 weeks of half days. Prior rule did not define the length of a full day. At the October 2016 SBEC meeting, the Board adopted new provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 228, which became effective December 27, 2016, increasing clinical teaching assignments to be a minimum of 14 weeks of full days or 28 weeks of half-days to provide clinical teachers with more opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills. The SBEC also clarified a full day as 100% of the school day, which is equivalent to a minimum of 490 hours for the total assignment. Because the previous rules did not define the length of a day, some EPPs were providing clinical teaching experiences that were less than 12 weeks of full days. In response to concerns raised during the rulemaking process, the SBEC created a clinical teaching exception in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(2)(D) and (E) for an EPP to pursue an alternate clinical option that does not meet the minimum requirements in rule.

To qualify for the exception, the SBEC rules require an EPP to describe an alternative clinical teaching requirement that will adequately prepare teacher candidates for standard certification

and ensure that the teacher is effective in the classroom. The EPP must request an exception in a form developed by the TEA staff that includes the following SBEC requirements:

- the rationale and support for the alternate clinical teaching option;
- a full description and methodology of the alternate clinical teaching option;
- a description of the controls to maintain the delivery of equivalent and quality education; and
- a description of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process to ensure that objectives are met.

After reviewing an exception request, TEA staff will make a recommendation to the SBEC whether the exception should be approved.

The following is the timeline for clinical teaching exception requests:

April 13, 2017	Clinical teaching exception request materials approved by the TEA Data Governance Board (TEA requirement)
April 14, 2017	Clinical teaching exception request materials distributed to EPPs and posted on the TEA website
May 1, 2017	Deadline for clinical teaching exception request to be considered for the 2017-2018 academic year at the June 9, 2017 SBEC meeting
June 14, 2017	Deadline for clinical teaching exception request to be considered for the 2017-2018 academic year at the August 4, 2017 SBEC meeting
January 8, 2018	Deadline for clinical teaching exception request to be considered for the 2018-2019 academic year

The University of Texas at Austin UTeach Natural Sciences Program was the only program to apply by the May 1 deadline. The full request will be provided to the SBEC under separate cover. A summary of the application request and the TEA staff recommendation for the clinical teaching exception request is included in Attachment II.

**ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend that the State Board for Educator Certification:

Approve the recommendation for the clinical teaching exception request with conditions as presented.

**Staff Members Responsible:** Tim Miller, Director  
Educator Preparation

**Attachments:** I. Statutory Citations  
II. Summary and Recommendation for Clinical Teaching Exception Request

**ATTACHMENT I**

**Statutory Citations related to Clinical Teaching Exception Requests**

**Texas Education Code, §21.044, Educator Preparation (excerpts):**

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

**ATTACHMENT II****Summary and Recommendation for Clinical Teaching Exception Request**

**Educator Preparation Program:** The University of Texas at Austin UTeach Natural Sciences Program

**Summary of Request:**

The goal of the UTeach Natural Sciences program is to increase the quantity and quality of STEM teachers for Texas and the nation.

The UTeach Natural Sciences clinical teaching exception request would apply to the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and alternative certification routes for the following certificates:

- Mathematics, Grades 4-8
- Mathematics/Science, Grades 4-8
- Science, Grades 4-8
- Chemistry, Grades 7-12
- Computer Science, Grades 8-12
- Life Science, Grades 7-12
- Mathematics, Grades 7-12
- Mathematics/Physical Science/Engineering, Grades 6-12
- Physical Science, Grades 6-12
- Physics/Mathematics, Grades 7-12
- Science, Grades 7-12

The UTeach Natural Sciences clinical teaching exception request would require a minimum of 25 hours a week for 14 weeks. These hours may be arranged flexibly with fewer than five hours on some days of the week and more than five on others. This is the current practice of the program and requires 350 hours of clinical teaching. The minimum number of hours for the standard clinical teaching option is 490 hours.

The UTeach Natural Sciences program provides a field supervisor support visit once a week for at least 12 weeks while the teacher candidate is actively teaching at least two classes. The minimum numbers of field supervisor visits for the standard clinical teaching options are three visits for 14-week full day programs and four visits for 28-week half day programs.

The UTeach Natural Sciences program sets the following targets to determine if it is adequately preparing candidates for certification and ensuring teachers are effective in the classroom:

1. Production of more than 35 STEM teachers per year.
2. More than 80% of the graduates of the program will enter teaching.
3. More than 50% of the graduates of the program who enter teaching will remain in schools after five years.
4. UTeach graduates will obtain student learning gains in test subjects equal to or greater than learning gains for teachers of other programs.

**TEA Staff Recommendation:** Approve with Conditions

**Conditions:**

- UTeach Natural Sciences implements the clinical teaching as described in the request.
- The University of Texas at Austin maintains an accreditation status of Accredited.
- To determine if the clinical teaching exception is adequately preparing candidates for certification and ensuring teachers are effective in the classroom (Section 3 of the Clinical Teaching Exception Request), UTeach Natural Sciences will use the following outcomes:
  - Target 1: The four-year average of UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates who receive standard certification within one year of program completion, reported annually for each academic year, will be equal to or greater than the 2012-2016 four-year average. The four-year average will not be below the 2012-2016 four-year average for more than one year.
  - Target 2: The four-year average of the percentage of UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates entering the teaching profession within one year of being issued a standard certificate, reported annually for each academic year, will be equal to or greater than the 2012-2016 four-year average. The four-year average will not be below the 2012-2016 four-year average for more than one year.
  - Target 3: The four-year average of the percentage of UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates who taught for at least five years, measured five years from the first year of employment on a standard certificate, will be equal to or greater than the 2012-2016 four-year average. The four-year average will not be below the 2012-2016 four-year average for more than one year.
  - Target 4: For each of the SBEC accountability indicators in 19 TAC §229.4 that have performance standards, the performance for UTeach Natural Sciences STEM candidates/graduates will meet the standard.
- To determine if the clinical teaching exception is providing an equivalent and quality education compared to candidates participating in clinical teaching options described in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(2)(A) or (B) (Section 4 of the Clinical Teaching Exception Request), UTeach Natural Sciences will use following methods:
  - Method 1: Is the percentage of UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates receiving standard certification within one year of program completion equal to or greater than the statewide percentage of STEM graduates receiving standard certification within one year of program completion who completed clinical teaching (without the use of an exception) as part of their teacher preparation program?
  - Method 2: Is the percentage of UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates entering the teaching profession under a standard certificate equal to or greater than the statewide percentage of STEM graduates entering the teaching profession under a standard certificate who completed clinical teaching (without the use of an exception) as part of their teacher preparation program?
  - Method 3: Is the percentage of UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates remaining in the teaching profession after five years equal to or greater than the statewide percentage of STEM graduates remaining in the teaching profession after five years who completed clinical teaching (without the use of an exception) as part of their teacher preparation program?
  - Method 4: For each of the SBEC accountability indicators in 19 TAC §229.4 that have performance standards, is the performance for UTeach Natural Sciences STEM graduates equal to or greater than the statewide performance for STEM graduates who completed clinical teaching (without the use of an exception) as part of their teacher preparation program?
- Until the data needed for the outcomes and methods are readily accessible to teacher preparation programs, UTeach Natural Sciences will work with the TEA for the necessary data and/or reports.
- UTeach Natural Sciences is not expected to report outcomes or use methods that rely on data that are not available.

<b>Outcomes to Determine Candidates are being Adequately Prepared for Certification and Ensuring Teachers are Effective in the Classroom</b>	<b>TEA Recommended Conditions</b>
Certification of STEM teachers	Equal to or greater than 2012-2016 UT Austin UTeach average
Employment of STEM teachers	Equal to or greater than 2012-2016 UT Austin UTeach average
Retention of STEM teachers	Equal to or greater than 2012-2016 UT Austin UTeach average
Results of PPR Certification Exams	Meet standard
Results of Non-PPR Certification Exams	Meet standard
Results of Principal Surveys	Meet standard
Student Learning	Meet standard
Frequency and Duration of Field Supervision	Meet standard
Quality of Field Supervision	Meet standard
Results of Teacher Surveys	Meet standard

<b>Methods to Determine Equivalency and Quality Compared to Other Programs</b>	<b>TEA Recommended Conditions</b>
Certification of STEM teachers	Equal to or greater than state average
Employment of STEM teachers	Equal to or greater than state average
Retention of STEM teachers	Equal to or greater than state average
Results of PPR Certification Exams	Equal to or greater than state average
Results of Non-PPR Certification Exams	Equal to or greater than state average
Results of Principal Surveys	Equal to or greater than state average
Student Learning	Equal to or greater than state average
Frequency and Duration of Field Supervision	Equal to or greater than state average
Quality of Field Supervision	Equal to or greater than state average
Results of Teacher Surveys	Equal to or greater than state average