



Oklahoma State Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

April 16, 2020

To: All certified and licensed agencies
All certified training programs
All certified instructors

From: Dale Adkerson *DA*
Administrative Program Manager- EMS Division
OSDH- Emergency Systems

Re: Course completion during the COVID-19 Crisis

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all CareerTechs and Colleges are closed for the remainder of the school year, with no defined open date. The courses occurring at agencies have been essentially stopped due to social distancing and limits on group sizes. As a result of this crisis, training programs have asked for options to complete current courses at all levels.

The Oklahoma Instructor Guidelines for all courses have a recommended number of hours for classes, labs, and clinicals. Essentially, each training program and agency can determine when a student has successfully completed the course work. There is not a statutory or regulatory requirement for what that competency level is. That competency is determined by the programs, agencies, and medical directors.

The course completion options available for all courses are similar to The Committee on Accreditation of Education Program for the Emergency Medical Services Professionals (CoAEMPS) guidelines for Paramedic programs.

- Option 1: Postpone all lab and clinical rotations until the crisis is over;
- Option 2: Allow simulation labs to replace the clinical rotations to meet the recommended skills are completed until competency is attained; or
- Option 3: For students that have not completed the recommended minimums but have attained competency may be considered competent.

Training programs and agencies choosing options 2 or 3 will need to make their decisions on a case by case basis. For example, a student that has completed a large percentage of their clinicals may be eligible for from option 2. However, a student that has just begun clinicals may not gain enough experience in the simulated labs to be considered competent.

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While considering your options, bear in mind the potential liability that would be associated with declaring a student competent inappropriately. Evidence of the student's competency will need to be retained to meet OSDH regulations and mitigate your potential risks. The decision to determine competency lies solely with the training program, instructors and the medical director.

Please contact the Department at 405.271.4027 or by email at esystems@health.ok.gov if you have any questions or concerns regarding this guidance.

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