



## COVID-19 Policy Statement

MPCAC remains steadfast in ensuring that our accredited programs meet our standards in the context of our commitment both to the public good and to social justice, an underpinning of our mission.

However, some of our programs find themselves in extraordinary situations, particularly in places where COVID-19 has been particularly virulent. Under these extenuating circumstances MPCAC understands that accommodations may be needed to the requirement of supervised experiences (Standard B.3: The program must include significant supervised experiences, a *minimum* of 600 hours across at least two semesters. At least 240 of the supervised experiences should be direct contact hours.) to facilitate students' graduation in a timely manner and without placing undue burden on these students and programs. MPCAC maintains a priority on programs maintaining compliance with all program standards; however, for those programs facing extraordinary circumstances, MPCAC has the following conditions, which apply for the spring and summer 2020 graduates. MPCAC will revisit the need for an extension of the relaxation of Standard B.3 by July 31, 2020. We do not need to be notified of other changes to the program that do not impact the meeting of standards (e.g., moving to remote instruction) at this time, however those changes must be indicated when programs submit their annual data in the fall.

Programs who plan to make temporary alterations to program requirements related to Standard B.3 must submit the MPCAC Programmatic Changes due to COVID-19 Form. Program plans are not subject to approval, however the program is expected to do the following:

1. There must be a clearly articulated measure of student competence as a central component to permit graduation, which would include evidence of student attainment of program goals and outcomes.
2. Any program modifications to address student needs must be developed in the context of their state requirements so that, at least in the state where the program is housed, students would still be eligible for licensure.
3. Students need to have a clear understanding that if they graduate in May or August under altered program requirements, it could impact their portability. Programs may decide how they want to document that students have the understanding.

If you wish to consult with MPCAC about changes that you are making that impact Standard B.3 or other alternations to your program, please email us (MPCACinc@gmail.com).



Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council

If your institution is encouraging P/F grades for courses in your program, we offer the following three considerations:

1. If a pass/fail grade were to be required, the pass would have to be the lowest acceptable grade for graduate students. For example, if the institution requires that students must have a 3.0 to graduate, a Pass grade would have to be a B or better. B- would be failing.
2. Requiring P/F or even making it optional for students could be a singular disadvantage, particularly for students wishing to pursue doctoral studies, or for students whose GPA needs improvement. This opportunity would be lost.
3. If the GPA is part of the students' competency assessment or part of the assessment of program objectives, that would need to be taken into account and likely all courses would need to have grades.