FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for students and alumni in traditional undergraduate or graduate certification programs.

If you are in a Transitional B certification program such as the NYC Teaching Fellows/Teaching Collaborative/Pathways to PE, please see the separate guidance including the Information for students in Transitional B programs in the updates section of the Brooklyn College Educator Certification website.

You can open the links in the letter below by clicking on items that are hyperlinked / underlined. This information may be updated and superseded.

NY State certification rules and procedures are subject to change. Please check the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) site for current information and updates.

Question: Which of The New Rules and Options Apply to Me Now?

A. I have not passed all of my tests for my initial or professional title and am otherwise eligible for my title on or before Sept. 1, 2021: Emergency COVID-19 certificate
(See pages 1-3)
B. * (new) I completed/will complete a student teaching class spring -summer 2020, academic year 2020-21 or 2021-2022 at Brooklyn College, or meet the other requirements listed on the state site and want to take the ATS-W instead of completing the edTPA portfolio for certification: edTPA safety net (See Page 3)
C. I need to complete the edTPA in a Virtual Learning Environment (See page 4)
D. I’m in the Special Ed. Secondary program and need a subject area extension to teach a subject in a special class (self-contained class) in grades 7-12, with some or no students under alternate assessment (see page 5)

More information and Frequently Asked Questions:

A. The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is available if you have not passed the tests for your title, and are otherwise eligible for and initial and/or professional title and/or graduate/graduated on or before Sept. 1, 2021. Applicants must meet all requirements for the initial or professional certificate, other than the exam requirement(s), on or before September 1, 2021.
1) Question: How does the Emergency COVID-19 certificate work?

*(new) If you are working toward certification (and/or a subject area extension to your title), you may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, which will allow you to work in New York State public schools or districts for two years while taking and passing the required exam(s) for the certificate or extension sought. This title previously was valid for one year with the option for a renewal.

*(new) Individuals who currently hold an emergency certificate will automatically have one year added to their certificate’s expiration date in TEACH in the near future. They do not need to take any action to have the expiration date extended. Emergency certificates issued in the future will be valid for two years. There is no longer an option for an Emergency COVID-19 certificate renewal due to the extension of the certificate’s validity period. The Emergency COVID-19 certificate application deadline continues to be September 1, 2021.

For the Emergency COVID-19 title, all requirements for the title, except the tests, must be done on or before Sept. 1, 2021. For certification related to your college program, you will need a College Recommendation in TEACH listing a recommendation for the initial or professional title with a graduation/program completion date for the title that is dated on or before September 1, 2021. The College Recommendation may be entered by the college in TEACH after September 1, 2021, and the applications may be evaluated after that date as well.

*(new clarification) You may need to allow about 16 weeks for a manual review. The NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) staff will need to do a manual review of your certification application if you are using the Emergency COVID-19 certificate option.

If you are using the individual evaluation pathway or have out-of-state education, there is an option for the Emergency COVID-19 title as well. Check the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) site for details.

2) Question: How do I know if I may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate?

You must complete the education for your initial and/or professional title on or before Sept. 1, 2021 and have all other requirements and two applications for the certificate, except for a passing score for one or more of your tests, on or before Sept. 1, 2021.

- You should check your Degreeworks account to see your expected graduation/program completion date. To see your confirmed education date, check CUNYfirst. If your expected graduation date is not listed and if you missed the graduation audit deadline, file ASAP and then send an email to degreeaudit@brooklyn.cuny.edu to let them know. They will alert your auditor and contact you. Your graduation depends on many factors.

- Check if your other requirements are done and recorded on your TEACH account. The requirements need to be done before Sept. 1, 2021 including the mandated workshops, and fingerprint records. You will also need to apply as described on the next page.
3) **Question: How do I apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate?**

*(New) Two applications are required before September 1, 2021: the emergency certificate which is no cost, and the matching initial and/or professional title which is $50 (each). *First, you will need to apply and pay the $50 fee for the initial and/or professional certificate before Sept. 1, 2021. Apply using the TEACH application menu, classroom teacher, subject, age group, title, type of application (initial/professional). After you apply for the initial/professional certificate and complete and pay for the application, you apply again using the TEACH application menu, classroom teacher, subject, age group, title, type of application: Emergency COVID-19. Application program codes are listed in the application section and the Student Information Sheet on the Brooklyn College Educator Certification website.

- *(new) It will save time for the evaluators at the state if you apply and pay for your application(s) after your requirements are done and recorded on your TEACH account, and well before Sept 1, 2021. You will need an institutional recommendation, and fingerprint records. Workshops will be credited when you have a recommendation. If you are graduating in the summer term 2021, and if you are going to apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, be sure to apply for both the Emergency and non-emergency titles (initial/professional etc.) and pay for your application(s) well before the Sept. 1, 2021 deadline. Please allow processing time and pay well before the deadline.

- For the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, the pathway is individual evaluation. No transcript evaluation required. The Autism workshop will be credited for students in special education undergraduate or graduate programs.

- Please see the resources on the [NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) site](#) for current information.

4) **Question: My graduation audit is not recorded on DegreeWorks or my graduation is expected after Sept. 1, 2021. I should be graduating on or before Sept. 1, 2021. I would like to be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 title. What do I do?**

Be sure to file for a graduation audit on time. If you miss the deadline or need help, send an email to degreaudit@brooklyn.cuny.edu. They will alert your auditor and contact you Your graduation/program completion depends on many factors which the Degree Audit staff must check.

B. *(new) edTPA safety net:*  this is an option for students completed/will complete a student teaching class spring -summer 2020, academic year 2020-21 or 2021-2022 at Brooklyn
College, or meet the other requirements listed on the state site and want to take the ATS-W instead of sending in the edTPA portfolio: edTPA safety net. You will have the option to take the ATS-W test instead of the edTPA. If you graduated Fall 2020 or before check the options in the state’s guidance.

*(new) Candidates who meet the eligibility requirements the edTPA safety net may pass the Assessment of Teaching Skills – Written (ATS-W) exam in lieu of passing the edTPA. Either version of the ATS-W exam (Elementary or Secondary) is acceptable; it is the candidate’s choice which version they want to take. To qualify, the candidate must take the ATS-W exam by September 1, 2024.

*(new) The college has sent names of all students eligible for the safety net based on the date of relevant college coursework in spring 2020-spring 2021 to the state already. Graduates of Brooklyn College prior to May 2020 should see the state’s guidance on eligibility.

*(new) After student teaching enrollment and other relevant clinical experience is confirmed in fall 2021 and spring 2022, the college will confirm eligibility for the safety net with the state and send a letter to each student.

*(new clarification) You may need to allow about 16 weeks for a manual review. The NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) staff will need to do a manual review of your certification application if you are using the edTPA safety net option.

*(new) Who is eligible for the edTPA safety net based on the date of relevant college coursework at Brooklyn College?

- Teacher certification candidates who complete/d student teaching in one or more terms Spring, 2020- spring 2022
- Teacher certification candidates who are currently working under a NY State internship certificate and completing their program in terms spring 2020-spring 2022
- Transitional B Certification program candidates (NYC Teaching Fellows/Collaborative) completing their second year of clinical practice by spring 2022.
- In-service teachers completing the non-degree certification programs in one or more terms spring 2020-spring 2022, as confirmed by the Secondary Education advisors

**1) Question: What do I need to do to be sure the ATS-W counts?**

*(new) After you have a passing ATS-W score listed on your TEACH account, and have an active/paid initial certificate application on file, and a recommendation for certification from the college, you can apply for the safety net by sending an email to examsafetynet@nysed.gov. See page 9 for information on the college recommendation.
The email needs to include your first and last name as is appears in your TEACH account, either your date of birth or last four digits of your social security number, and you can request that the safety net be applied to your application. After receiving the email, the Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) staff will check that you were on the dean’s list submitted to OTI. If so, the staff will indicate on your certificate application that you are exempt from the edTPA requirement for certification.

You will still see the edTPA on the list of requirements since that is still an option. When you have completed your initial certificate requirements the edTPA will be credited. You may not see any other notes in your account to confirm that the edTPA will be credited.

*For students eligible for the edTPA safety net 2020-spring 2021: You should have received a confirmation letter from Helen Spencer hspencer@brooklyn.cuny.edu to confirm that the college sent your name to the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) verifying that you could not complete your edTPA as a result of the COVID-19 Crisis and are eligible for the edTPA safety net. If so, you are on a list submitted by the EPP dean or Dean’s designee to OTI verifying that you completed a student teaching or similar clinical experience during the terms covered by the edTPA safety net, and as such, you can take the ATS-W instead of the edTPA if you like.

*(new) Candidates who meet the eligibility requirements for the edTPA safety net may pass the Assessment of Teaching Skills – Written (ATS-W) exam in lieu of passing the edTPA. Either version of the ATS-W exam (Elementary or Secondary) is acceptable; it is the candidate’s choice which version they want to take. To qualify, the candidate must take the ATS-W exam by September 1, 2024.

2) **Question: I paid for the edTPA already. Can I use that payment for the ATS-W?**

Answer: You will need to withdraw from the edTPA and register for the ATS-W. Please see the information at [this link](#). All financial aid vouchers issued by NYSED can be used for ATS-W, you do not need to exchange them.

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**C. For students who want to complete the edTPA in a Virtual Learning Environment:**

You will need to review the “[Guidance for edTPA in an Alternative Arrangement: Virtual Learning Environment](#)” document and familiarize yourself with the requirements before you discuss them with a professor or administrator and work together to determine if completing your edTPA in a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE):

1. Is an appropriate and viable option for both you (the teacher candidate) and your students
2. A VLE will allow you to capture acceptable forms of authentic practice and relevant evidence to be scored according to the edTPA rubrics

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3. The online learning platform will permit video recording of synchronous instruction and collection of other artifacts, such as student work samples.

You can join any workshops we offer. You can write to Prof. Stella Kyprianou for information on workshops. Email Stella.Kyprianou@brooklyn.cuny.edu

For students currently enrolled in our programs:

Please contact the professor for your student teaching class, and/or program advisor.

You can also contact
Special Ed.: Stella Kyprianou Stella.Kyprianou@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Childhood/Bilingual: Linda Delluomo Linda.Delluomo39@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Early Childhood: Mary Debey Mdebey@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Art Education: Herman Jiesamfoek HJiesamfoek@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Physical Education: Laura Blitzer LauraBlitzer@brooklyn.cuny.edu

For students who have graduated:

- You are considered an “Unaffiliated candidate” for the purpose of completing your edTPA.

Pearson has webinars to support applicants who are not currently enrolled in a program.

D. Subject Area Certification Requirement and SOCE Application Deadline for Special Education Teachers Who Teach a Special Class in Grades 7-12

A students with disabilities grades 7-12 generalist teacher can teach as a Consultant Teacher, Resource Room Teacher, Integrated Co-Teacher, or Special Class Teacher – All Students Under Alternate Assessment.

You can ask your school administrators if you need the subject area extension for your work assignment. If you are working in a D75 School, your generalist title should be relevant as long as the students are under alternate assessment.

Effective July 1, 2021, all special education teachers who teach one or more subject areas in a special class (self-contained class) in grades 7-12, with some or no students under alternate assessment, must either:

- be certified in each subject area that they teach, or
- meet the teaching experience requirement for the statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) and have an active SOCE application in the TEACH online system in each subject area that they teach.

If you have 18 credits in biology, chemistry, earth science, English, math, physics social studies, or a language, you can apply for a subject area extension.

More information on special education assignments.

E. *(new) New edTPA passing scores have been posted at edTPA passing score webpage
For all certification candidates:

Check your TEACH account--make sure your account includes the following

- Fingerprint records: If your records have not been received, refer to these instructions
- Workshops: if they are not listed, refer to these instructions. Send any missing workshops to SOECertificationDocs SOECertificationDocs@brooklyn.cuny.edu
- Applications: initial/professional, marked paid, and emergency if you applied for that title.
- Institutional recommendation. Graduation/program completion may be confirmed by Degree Audit three weeks or more after your official program completion date. If you graduated/completed your program and workshops, and if your degree was confirmed by Degree Audit, you can contact Helen Spencer for an institutional recommendation hspencer@brooklyn.cuny.edu
- Certification tests. If you have not passed the tests, see section A.

Question: how long does certification last?

*(new) Emergency COVID-19 Certificate: This title is effective for two years (check your NY State TEACH account). If you have an Emergency COVID-19 certificate, you will need to complete the requirements for an initial certificate before the expiration date of the emergency certificate. Please see the details on the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) site. This title previously was valid for one year with the option for a renewal, now there will no longer be a renewal option/process. This title will now be a two-year certificate.

Initial Certification: After you have initial certification, it will be valid for five years. If you do not complete the requirements for professional certification before your initial certificate expires, you will need to apply for a time extension and/or initial reissuance certificate. Check the requirements for certification well before that time since requirements and rules may change.

Professional Certification: After completing three years of relevant paid teaching experience, in one of your titles or a combination, plus any other requirements needed at the time of your application and evaluation such as INS Permanent Residence or U.S. Citizenship, you should be eligible for professional certification. There is a $50 application fee as well.

Work experience verification for professional certification: Your employer will need to verify three years of relevant work experience. If you already have professional certification and it was not confirmed recently, to save time, you should have your experience reconfirmed.

For experience completed within the state of New York, the preferred method for an employer to verify it is by entering a Superintendent Statement onto TEACH. If the employer cannot enter a
Superintendent Statement, they need to send the appropriate “Verification of Paid Experience” form found here: [http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/form.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/form.html)

The payroll secretary for your school can contact the HR director to send the work experience data to the state.

Information on the work experience requirements:

Information on the mentoring requirement:

If you worked in a NYC DOE school, you can contact the NYC DOE Certification office to request that they send your mentored experience information to the state. You can write to mentorverification@schools.nyc.gov. They will need to know your file number.

Professional certification does not expire although during that time Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) and registration are required.

**Question: I applied for certification. How do I check the status of my application and what needs to be done?**

You will need to check your application status by going to your NY State TEACH account.

You can check the application details by going to the inquiry links, account information, certificates, applications, view evaluation history.

If you see that the application is “ready for review”, it has not been reviewed yet. Any items marked “unmet” or “deficient” by the automated system will need to be manually evaluated.

You may see your application status change in stages. If your application status is “review complete pending information,” no action is required unless the state contacts you for information. Your tests or fingerprint records may be pending/not received, for example. You can open the evaluation history to check this.

Expedited service: School districts, charter, non-public schools or agencies that require certified personnel, may request expedited service for priority processing of certificate applications for candidates they are seeking to employ. More information: [http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/expedite.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/expedite.html)

If you get a “Notice of Uncompleted Requirements” for the initial certificate, it will list what is needed for that title. If you also applied for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, when you get the notice of uncompleted requirements, you can check if the Emergency COVID-19 application has been issued or is pending final review, which indicates that it may be issued in a couple of days. The initial certificate will be confirmed after you pass the tests for that title.
**Question: How long should I expect the certification process to take?**

*(new clarification)* After your degree is confirmed, you may need to allow at least three weeks for the degree to be confirmed by the Registrar's office, then I (Helen Spencer) need to add your "institutional recommendation" for certification to your TEACH account.

After you have confirmation from the Registrar’s Office that your degree was awarded/education is completed, you can contact me (Helen Spencer). I will check that your mandated workshops and education are recorded. After that, I will add the “institutional recommendation” to your NY State TEACH account to confirm your education and certification title with the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) and send you a confirmation letter.

If you need priority processing by the college: After your grades are in, you can request a statement of graduation using this form and then send the statement to me (Helen Spencer). If the statement indicates that your degree will be complete subject to the satisfactory completion of courses for which you are registered, please request another statement when your grades are recorded on CUNYfirst.

A manual review is required for some titles. You may need to allow about **16 weeks for a manual review**. The NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) staff will need to do a manual review of your certification application if you are using the edTPA safety net, the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, applying for an additional certificate based on courses taken as a non-matriculated student, professional certification, individual evaluation, and some other types of applications.

Expeditied processing by the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI): The Human Resource Director for the school who is hiring you can request the state to expedite your certification processing. [Information about Expedited Service Requests.](#)

If a school can hire you as a substitute teacher before your certification is confirmed, that may help you start work while you wait for your certification records to be confirmed. [Information about NYC DOE Substitute Teaching.](#)

**Question: My certification expired. What do I do?**

If your requirements and done and your application is pending review, you can check with your payroll secretary, teacher’s union representative and NYC DOE [HR Connect](#) staff if this is a problem.

**Question: How do I apply for NY State certification?**

Please see the application instructions on the [Brooklyn College Educator Certification website.](#) Apply using your [TEACH](#) account.
**Question: What tests do I need and how do I find a test site and when will tests be available?**

You can check current requirements at www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert. If you are not certified and if you are applying for certification related to your undergraduate or graduate teacher education program at Brooklyn College, check Pathway Approved Teacher Preparation Program. You can check the Brooklyn College Educator Certification website for updates and information on the tests and test options.

Refer to this document: How to check NY State certification test center availability

**Question: Who can I contact for help with the edTPA?**

Please see page 6.

**Question: I graduated before June 2020 but I have not passed the edTPA and/or other tests. What are my options?**

*(new) Answer: See the information above about the COVID-19 Emergency Certificate. If you graduated from Brooklyn College prior to June 2020, you are not eligible for the edTPA Safety Net based on the date of your student teaching. For other options, please see the information on the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) site in the updates or other links.

**Question: Do I need to complete the Autism workshop?** Answer: you don’t need that workshop if you were in a special ed bachelor’s or master’s program. It will be credited.

**Question: Do I need to send my transcripts to the state?** Answer: You don’t need to send transcripts to the state if you have or will have a college recommendation for your title. This is true for the emergency certificate as well.

**Question: My certification is expiring. What do I do?** If you do not have the requirements for a professional title, and if you are eligible, you can apply for a time extension and/or initial renewal.

**Question: I don’t have a college recommendation yet on my TEACH account? How do I get that?** College recommendations are added after the workshops and education are confirmed, starting usually no sooner than about three weeks after the official graduation/program completion date. Graduation/program completion may be confirmed by Degree Audit three weeks or more after your official program completion date. If you graduated/completed your program and workshops, and if your degree was confirmed by Degree Audit, you can contact me (Helen Spencer) for an institutional recommendation hspencer@brooklyn.cuny.edu

**Question: Is there any test prep?** *(new) Please see the test section of the Brooklyn College Educator Certification website.*
**Question: I’m not receiving email notices. What should I do?**

If you are not already receiving e-mail from Brooklyn College at your preferred e-mail address, update your address by going to the BC WebCentral Portal, then navigating to My Info > My Email and Text Message Subscriptions. Select the option to subscribe to "news from institutional departments."

**More Questions?** If you have questions for me, please contact me by email. Please confirm your CUNYfirst EMPLID number or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

For the most current information, please refer to see the updates and instructions on the Brooklyn College Educator Certification website and the NY State Dept. of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) site.

Best Regards,

**Helen Spencer**

hspencer@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Certification Officer

Brooklyn College, School of Education, Office of the Dean

Working from home until the Brooklyn College campus reopens

Tel. 718-951-5000 x3946. Phone office hours, Spring - Summer 2021: Mondays and Wednesdays, noon – 5pm or by appointment.

Website: [http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/education/certification.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/education/certification.php)