

Fresno State PK-3 Program Clinical Practice Equivalency for Clinical Practice Requirements and Verification

The PK-3 Credential Program offers clinical practice equivalency for clinical practice options that allow teacher candidates to receive credit for a portion of their clinical practice hours. The teacher candidates must still enroll in and complete the assignments required of the program's clinical practice experience courses, complete all course assignments, and pass the Fresno Assessment of Student Teachers (FAST).

Clinical Practice Equivalency Option 1: Professional Experience

Candidates who have already been employed for at least six years in a childcare or child development center prior to admission to the PK-3 Credential may be eligible for Equivalency.

Option 1: Professional Experience. In order to be granted clinical practice equivalence for up to 200 hours of required clinical practice experience in a preschool (PK) or transitional kindergarten (TK) setting, candidates must meet BOTH of the following requirements, outlined in sections (1) and (2). Candidates must still meet all other program requirement, including a clinical practice experience of at least 200 hours in a K-3 setting:

1. Either hold a valid Child Development Permit at the Teacher level or higher **OR** verify employment as a lead teacher in a Head Start program or a childcare and development center serving preschool-aged children. (Note: Lead teacher means an adult who has direct responsibility for the care and development of children from birth to 5 years of age in a center-based early childhood care setting and serves in a teaching capacity with 3- and/or 4-year olds. Title 5 Code of Regulations 80067(d)(1)(B)(iii))
2. Verify six (6) years or more of satisfactory, full-time teaching experience as a lead teacher in a public or private center-based childcare and development program serving preschool-aged children that is either a license-exempt child care and development center pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 1596.792(o) or holds a license as defined in section 101152(l)(1), Article 1 Chapter 1, Division 12, of Title 22. (Note: Full time teaching is defined as classroom-based teaching for at least 3 hours per day, for at least 75% of the school year. Title 5 Code of Regulations 80067(d)(1)(B)(ii)).

Verification Requirements:

Satisfactory teaching experience shall be verified by the public or private center-based childcare and development center. Verification must include a statement by the employer confirming that the teacher's performance was rated satisfactory or better in the following areas (must include all):

- The use of developmentally appropriate teaching strategies for preschool-aged children.
- The ability to establish and maintain developmentally appropriate standards and expectations for student behavior.
- A demonstration of deep knowledge of early literacy, early mathematics, and

other preschool subjects, and the use of developmentally appropriate teaching and learning approaches that engage students and promote student understanding.

- An ability to plan and implement a sequence of appropriate learning activities, both teacher and child initiated.
- An ability to evaluate and assess student learning outcomes.
- An ability to communicate effectively with young children and their families/guardians.

Clinical Practice Equivalency Option 2: Completion of Practicum in Early Childhood Education

Candidates who have already completed a practicum course at a regionally accredited institution of higher education, including a community college, shall be granted clinical **practice** equivalency for the hours completed during the practicum course, up to 200 hours.

In order to be granted clinical practice equivalency for the practicum course, **all** of the following conditions must be met:

- a. The practicum course is credit bearing and degree applicable towards a Teacher level or higher-level Child Development Permit or a degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, Child and Adolescent Development, Early Childhood Studies, or Human Development.
- b. The practicum hours completed were in a preschool or early childhood setting serving 3-4-year-old children and included clinical practice experience that was *supervised* at minimum by a trained faculty member/instructor **with expertise in Early Childhood and Child Development pedagogy** who provided observation and feedback to the candidate.
- c. The practicum hours were completed within the past fifteen years.
- d. The candidate earned a C or better on the practicum course. Courses earned with a “Pass” or another designation deemed by the institution of higher education to be equivalent to a grade of “C” or higher are also acceptable.
- e. **The candidate provides to the Fresno State PK3 program verification of the hours served through transcripts and other documentation, as determined by the Fresno State PK3 ECE Specialist Instruction program.**

Submit: Please complete the **PK-3 Credential Clinical Practice Equivalency Form** to request a review of your professional experience and practicum course background needed to determine if you meet the clinical equivalency requirements. You will be asked to upload the following evidence in order to complete the PK-3 Credential Clinical Equivalency Form:

Evidence of Clinical Practice Equivalency Option 1: Professional Experience

- Name of employer, program name, name and contact information of the person who can verify your employment.
- Copy of a valid Child Development Permit at the Teacher level or higher.

- Letter from employer(s) that verifies:
 - Your role as a lead teacher and the length or time you held that role prior to your enrollment in the PK-3 Credential.
 - That your performance received a rating of at least satisfactory in each of the following areas:
 - The use of developmentally appropriate teaching strategies for preschool-aged children.
 - The ability to establish and maintain developmentally appropriate standards and expectations for student behavior.
 - A demonstration of deep knowledge of early literacy, early mathematics, and other preschool subjects, and the use of developmentally appropriate teaching and learning approaches that engage students and promote student understanding.
 - An ability to plan and implement a sequence of appropriate learning activities, both teacher and child initiated.
 - An ability to evaluate and assess student learning outcomes.
 - An ability to communicate effectively with young children and their families/guardians.

Evidence of **Clinical Practice Equivalency Option 2: Practicum in Early Childhood Education**

- Unofficial transcripts that include the name of institution and grade for the practicum in early childhood education that you completed.
- Letter from practicum supervisor confirming that observations and feedback were provided during field placement in a preschool or early childhood setting serving 3–4-year-old children.

Verification and Approval Process

The PK-3 Credential Coordinator will verify the information and grant clinical **practice** equivalence for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential candidates who meet all requirements for up to 200 hours in a preschool setting during phase 1 of the program and/or up to 200 clinical hours in a Transitional Kindergarten setting during phase 2 of the program, for no more than a total of 400 hours of clinical practice credit. It may take three weeks to verify the information provided in the form.

Candidates who have completed **both** a verified work experience as outlined in **Clinical Practice** Equivalency Option 1 above **and** a qualified practicum experience as outlined in **Clinical Practice** Equivalency Option 2 above may be granted a maximum of 400 hours total commensurate with the number of hours served toward the clinical practice requirement. For those who are granted 200 hours for Transitional Kindergarten (TK), an additional 80 hours will still be required during Phase 2. This is to ensure the teacher candidate has the opportunity to complete the Site Visitation Project portion of the FAST. The remaining 200 hours of clinical

practice will be completed in grades K-3 as part of the teacher preparation program.