



Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC) COVID-19 Statement

CAAHEP-accredited Cytotechnology Programs are in the process of planning and making decisions on how best to respond to the impact of COVID-19. Since the spread of COVID-19 is continuing, please know the CPRC supports you as you work through this public health crisis.

As academic institutions are in the process of planning and deciding how best to respond, we encourage you to refer to these helpful resources often, for the latest information on COVID-19, coronavirus.

- The [World Health Organization](#)
- The [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [US Department of Education](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#)
- Local public health authority for your county and state
- Your local and state regulatory institutions

The CPRC will work with our Programs to help them navigate issues that impact our students. In our immediate control:

- Scheduled site visits have been put on hold,
- Report due dates will be extended on a case by case basis,
- Fee schedules will remain, and late fees will be waived if needed.

For students still in session or in clinical rotations, decisions made may impact their graduation date. Other allied health programs in CAAHEP share similar decisions. Based on ours and other CoAs responses to COVID-19 the following list of factors, which is not all inclusive, is provided for reference:

- Moving remaining course material online for distance education to achieve competencies;
- Reaching out to peers or professional organizations for access to shared resources such as digital cytology image files, virtual microscopy telemedicine, or other currently available distant education;
- Extending the academic term so that students can complete the necessary in-person affective and psychomotor competencies for their coursework;
- Altering schedules so that the competencies are taught later in either the term or the program with the goal of making sure the competencies are covered;
- Giving students incompletes and planning for educational sessions after the term ends so that the students can achieve the competencies;
- Following your local public health authority's recommendations;
- Implementing the academic continuity plan for your institution;
- Meeting your institutional requirements for potentially extended graduation for all students, consulting policies for incompletes, leaves of absence, and student enrollment agreements;
- Meeting with the Program Advisory Committee and clinical stakeholders to discuss options for continued learning.

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Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee

Committee on Accreditation

If clinical rotations are suspended, and no other sites are available keep documentation during the disruption and if there are any deviation from requirements for students to graduate then the CPRC can evaluate on a case by case basis. Our policy has been (as it was for programs impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Maria) to not penalize programs for national situations beyond their control.

If graduation dates are delayed, be prepared to provide to the CPRC with evidence demonstrating which clinical sites and students were directly impacted and the length of the disruption.

It is important that all students receive adequate clinical experience to meet their entry level competencies and to be eligible to sit for the ASCP Board of Certification. The CPRC is not authorized to reduce a student's time commitment for clinical rotation or other course work. The CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology direct our actions to qualify a student for graduation.

The CPRC will continue to facilitate and support educational innovations to meet the Program's needs during this disruptive period.

We are continuing to monitor the available information on COVID-19, which now changes daily, and will stay in communication with you all as we have more information to share.

Karen M. Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)CMIAC, *Chair*
Deborah M. Sheldon, Cytology Education Coordinator
Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee

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