



National Program - Provisional Certification Process

OVERVIEW

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are uncertain when travel and the ability to conduct live classes will return to normal. We have a pressing need to maintain the quality of our students' educational experience while maintaining the quality and integrity of our KPA certification. With that goal in mind, we have created a provisional two-step certification process. Below are the recommendations for a three-day virtual provisional certification process and a two-day final certification process. As we implement these certification classes, we will depend on our experienced faculty to adjust and adapt the exercises to deliver the best experience while maintaining the primary goals of each certification class. We will update this guide as we discover better ways of delivering each portion of the class.

- Part 1 - Three-day virtual workshop - The focus of this workshop is to conduct a few teaching exercises and to complete the Teaching Assessment and the 10-Part Chain Assessment.
- Part 2 - Two-day live workshop - The focus of this workshop is to evaluate aspects of the students' training skills that we normally assess informally during the full workshop. These include, but are not limited to, their ability to shape a behavior live, work their dog when faced with multiple distractions, work other people's dogs, and work with their fellow students in person.

PART 1 - THREE-DAY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Our main goals in this workshop are to be able to conduct a formal Teaching Assessment as well as the 10-Part Chain Assessment (including the reorder and isolated segment parts of that assessment). We encourage each instructor to organize the three days in a way that is logical to them. We have selected a few exercises from the National Program; several of these exercises are mandatory and several are simply suggestions.

PRE-WORKSHOP - As is normal, we expect the student to have completed all coursework prior to attending the virtual workshop. Students should not be allowed to attend the workshop if they did not pass the Final Knowledge Test (100 multiple-choice questions) as well as complete all written assignments and video submissions. They are required to submit a video of their 10-part chain in advance of the workshop so that the faculty member is better prepared for the exercises we suggest in the workshop. This chain will not be formally evaluated, but the video is a requirement.

DAY 1

- Rehearse 10-Part Chain (Mandatory) - Give each student the opportunity to practice their 10-part chain. You can provide feedback and this can form the foundation of several exercises that follow.
- Teach Something New (Mandatory) - Students can select a non-dog-related behavior (for example, how to build a campfire, how to do a cartwheel, etc.) OR a dog-related behavior they might teach to a client (for example, how to put a harness on a dog). Students can plan a focus funnel outline (10-15 mins. of solo work time) with TAGpoints and then teach a classmate (break out rooms here?). This assignment can be sent to the student in advance of the workshop so they have time to plan.
- Waiting for Cue Challenge (Suggestion) - After all students have demonstrated their chains, discuss which behaviors are presenting challenges with cue anticipation/offering off-cue responses. Break them into groups and allow them to coach each other through the process. Faculty member assists with this and helps each student use the focus funnel to provide fellow students with feedback.
- (Mandatory) Provide each student with the behavior they will be asked to teach to fellow students for the Teaching Assessment. This will allow them to put a plan together and work out their focus funnel overnight. Discuss set-up and plan for the teaching assessment with students.

DAY 2

- How to Test a Behavior for Stimulus Control (Suggestion) - Another exercise and discussion to help students get better prepared for their chain demonstration tomorrow. Can be turned into a teaching exercise as well for students to work with each other.
- Cue as a Reinforcer Exercise (Suggestion) - This is an exercise adapted from WS #2 of the Regional program. We should focus on small chains from within their 10-part chain rehearsal to pinpoint areas where the student can work on this. Use this as another teaching opportunity to work with each other.
- Teaching Assessment (Mandatory) - This will be set up just as it is at the live workshop. Each student will conduct a lesson (20 minutes) teaching their fellow students their assigned behavior. For large classes, rotate students in the learner role (it is best to have four student learners for each teacher - the remaining class members can just observe).

DAY 3

- Teaching Assessment continued (if necessary) - These take time and if the faculty member feels a need to split the assessment over two days, it is best to make that decision in advance and give half the students their behaviors at the end of Day 1 and give the other half of the students their behaviors at the end of Day 2. This keeps it fair and each student has one night to prepare and plan. Each faculty member can make the decision to do all Teaching Assessments on Day 2, all on Day 3, or to split them (but be aware of student perception of fairness and not giving some students an extra night to practice and prepare).

- 10-Part Chain (Mandatory) - This follows the same rules as the live 10-Part Chain Assessment. Each student will be given 15 minutes to perform their chain. Within that 15 minutes, they also will be required to perform an isolated 4 behaviors from the chain and 4 reordered behaviors from their chain.

POST-WORKSOP - Faculty members will write and score the assessments and send them to Annie. Annie will communicate to each student whether they passed or not and Sam will provide them their Provisional Certification packet (details being worked out). If a student does not pass, they may reassess in advance of the live workshop; we will communicate criteria and details shortly.

PART 2 - TWO-DAY LIVE IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

This segment of the certification process is outlined in a separate document titled: Live Certification Workshop Guide (National)