

Subject: Pass/Fail Option for Graduate Students for Spring Semester 2020

Date: March 25, 2020

To: The University Community

From: Gillian Small, University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Given the unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 (coronavirus) has created in our community, and specifically in causing the University to move to fully remote learning in an accelerated fashion, we have decided it is appropriate to allow graduate students in many programs (see below for exceptions) to elect whether any or all of their classes for this current semester will be graded on a pass/fail scale, or on the regular graduate grading scale (A-C or F). Whatever the choice, all classes will still count for their respective requirements. We need to emphasize that a “P” grade does not affect a student’s GPA, but any grade of “F” will be calculated into a GPA.

Please note, the following programs are exempted from this policy:

Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master’s of Science in Nursing, Ph.D in Clinical Psychology, Psy.D. in School Psychology.

Students have until April 24 to switch some or all of their spring courses to a Pass/Fail grading system or remain with the traditional grading system. Students must inform the respective instructor in writing by this deadline for each course they decide to elect the Pass/Fail option, otherwise they will continue to be graded by the regular graduate grading system.

Faculty will indicate on their rosters for each class whether the student has elected the Pass/Fail option or the traditional A-F grading system. In the Pass/Fail option, any work deemed worthy of any pass grade (A-D) will be given a “P” and only work deemed worthy of a failing grade will be given an “F”.

Students who are trying to improve their current GPA, or who need a certain grade in order to move forward in their program, should strongly consider electing the traditional graduate grading. If a student is unsure, they should seek the guidance of an academic advisor, department chair or director to help make their decision.

Please note that the last day for student withdrawal from classes has also been extended to April 10, 2020.

Graduate Repeat Policy

If a student is repeating a course, it is strongly recommended that they **do not** select the pass-fail option, as the repeated course grade will not replace the first course grade issued to the student. If a student has been found guilty of academic dishonesty, an F grade for this course is not to be removed from the student's transcript or from the cumulative grade point ratio calculation when the course is repeated, as per the graduate academic integrity policy.