

RESPONSE TO COVID-19
FALL 2020 GRADING ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY
Effective: September 30, 2020

This grading accommodation goes into effect on September 30, 2020 and will be active for the Fall 2020 semester only to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary policy supersedes any applicable current policies as well as the Spring 2020 policy.

This policy does not apply to College of Medicine or College of Pharmacy.

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMMODATIONS

PASS/FAIL GRADING FOR UNDERGRADUATES

How this Accommodation Applies to Undergraduate Students:

- Undergraduate students may choose to take a Pass/Fail grade in **one** course only in Fall 2020.
- All courses, even the one in which a Pass/Fail grade is chosen, will be graded as normal (letter grades). Undergraduates can choose to make their courses pass/fail for the Fall 2020 semester after consulting with their academic advisor and receiving approval of the appropriate academic college dean (or designee). Because of program or licensure requirements, it may not be in a student's best interest to opt for a pass/fail grade in certain courses. The pass/fail option may also impact a student's eligibility for financial aid and scholarships. This decision should be made in thoughtful discussion with the academic advisor. The academic college dean (or designee) may decline the request for pass/fail option for necessary pre-requisite, program admission, or licensure courses.
- **The decision to take the Pass/Fail option will require students to complete the course as they normally would. The Pass/Fail option does not "lock in" a grade when the decision is made. Students must earn a D or better on their final grade after completing the full course in order to receive a grade of "P."**
- The instructor will not know the identity of students enrolled on a P/F basis and will record letter grades for all students, which the Office of the Registrar will convert to P/F.
- Consistent with current policy, letter grades of A – D will be converted to Pass. F grades will be converted to Fail.
- P/F courses may be repeated for regular letter grades at a later date.
- This accommodation is available for undergraduate courses taken in the full-term, first, middle, and last 5-week sessions, first or last 7-week sessions of the Fall 2020 semester.
- There is no minimum GPA requirement for requesting P/F grades for Fall 2020.
- The number of credits taken as P/F in Fall 2020 **will** apply toward the total of 12 credits maximum in P/F status under standard policy. (Spring 2020 P/F hours did not count toward the total, per the "Emergency Grading Policy for Spring 2020.")
- There is no restriction on the type of courses available for P/F grading. However, certain courses (those that are required pre-requisites, or for admission into professional

programs, or for licensure) may not be appropriate for P/F grading and may be denied the dean (designee).

- Courses graded as P/F under this accommodation will count towards applicable curricular, major, progression, and graduation requirements.
- Pass grades (P) are not computed in the GPA; however, these courses will count towards earned semester hours. **Failing (F) grades are computed in the student's GPA.**
- *Undergraduate students can elect to receive a pass/fail grade beginning Dec. 15, 2020 and no later than 4:30 pm on January 5, 2021. On that date, the grading decision is final and cannot be reversed. Note that the University will be closed for holiday break from December 24 – Jan. 4, and no staff will be available to process requests. Since Financial Aid awards could be impacted by a decision date of Jan. 5, it may be in the student's best interest to make a decision between Dec. 15-Dec. 24.*
- Undergraduate students will still need minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 (or a program minimum, which may be higher) to graduate.
- Students are responsible for consulting with their academic advisor, and as applicable financial aid advisor, scholarship granting agencies and the like to learn the impact of choosing the P/F option.

INCOMPLETE GRADING FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Undergraduate students may still receive a grade of "I" (Incomplete) for courses taken in the Fall 2020 semester. ETSU's [Incomplete Policy](#) for Undergraduate Students will still apply.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The [grade appeal](#) process for undergraduate students remains in effect and unchanged.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

GRADING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Pass/Fail grading is not available for graduate students. However, given the circumstances brought about by some classes being moved to remote delivery, faculty are encouraged to use broader discretion in assigning a grade of "I" (Incomplete) in Fall 2020. Graduate students should consult with course faculty and with their graduate advisor to determine if a grade of "I" is warranted and in the student's best interest.

Academic dismissals and probations remain in effect for Fall 2020.

In order to graduate, graduate students will be required to have a 3.0 GPA overall and in the program of study.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS

The grade appeal process for graduate students remains in effect and unchanged.

Considering the Pass/Fail Option in Fall 2020?

Your advisor can help you decide. Here are some issues you should consider:

YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will make a D, D+, or C- in a course. • I will continue to participate in the course and do the work that is required, but I would like to remove the stress of trying to earn the highest grade that I can. • I have struggled with the class, and I may be failing it right now but it is likely I could earn at least a D. • I'm really freaked out about completing this class online and although I have a good grade now, it is likely to go down, potentially to a D. • The class is not a pre-requisite for any other classes or programs. • The class is not required for my major and what I learn here will not be built upon in later classes in my major. • The class is not something that is required to get into a professional school (Nursing, Medical, Pharmacy, etc.), program (Audiology, Physical Therapy, Allied Health, etc.) or required for licensure (education, etc.). • Switching to P/F will not decrease my engagement in the course or jeopardize my learning the material. • I'm repeating this class because I failed it the first time I took it and I do not need a letter grade in it for professional schools or other reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am failing or have failed the course. The pass/fail option is not for you. • I do not want to finish the work for this course; I want to take a passing grade now. This option is not for you. (You should consider dropping the course.) • I have a GPA below a 2.0 which is required for graduation and satisfactory academic progress. I'm making a C or above in this class and need a good grade to increase my GPA. (Do the calculations! Your advisor can help with this.) • A grade in the class is required admission to a professional school in which I am interested. (Some schools may accept a P; others may not. YOU need to check with those other schools.) • A grade in this class is required because it is a pre-requisite class or because it is needed for licensure. • This class is required for my major and it is a fundamental class that will be built upon in later classes. If I switch to P/F, I know that I will be less engaged and less likely to learn all of the material that I need to do well in subsequent classes. • I receive federal financial aid, scholarship, or other funding/support that depends upon a letter grade in this course. • I plan to apply to a selective admission program and must have a C or better in this course.