

RESPONSE TO COVID-19
EMERGENCY GRADING ACCOMMODATION FOR SPRING 2020
EFFECTIVE: MARCH 31, 2020

This emergency grading accommodation goes into effect on March 31, 2020 and will be active for the Spring 2020 semester only (at this time) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This emergency policy temporarily supersedes any applicable current policies. ETSU Academic Council and President Brian Noland approved this emergency policy.

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMMODATIONS

PASS/FAIL GRADING FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Effective March 31, 2020, East Tennessee State University will implement an Emergency Grading Accommodation for undergraduate students. Undergraduate students can choose the pass/fail option for some or all undergraduate courses in which they are registered in the Spring 2020 semester.

How this Accommodation Applies to Undergraduate Students:

- Undergraduate students can elect to place a course on pass/fail or remove a course from pass/fail no later than Monday, June 15, 2020. On that date, the grading decision is final and cannot be reversed. **Note:** details related to submitting a P/F application – including timing and process – will be announced as soon as all advisors are informed and a process is identified to handle these requests.
- All courses will be graded as normal (letter grades). Undergraduates can choose to make their courses pass/fail for the Spring 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.
- Students may make the decision for a pass/fail grade on a course-by-course basis.
- 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 **all** undergraduate courses taken in the full-term, middle 5-weeks, last 5-weeks, or last 7-weeks of Spring 2020 semester.
- There is no minimum GPA requirement for requesting P/F grades for Spring 2020.
- There is no restriction on the number of credits that may be requested for P/F grades in Spring 2020. The number of credits taken as P/F in Spring 2020 will not affect a future total of credits (12 credits under current policy).
- 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.
- Courses graded as P/F under this accommodation will count towards applicable curricular, major, continuation, 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 will still need a cumulative GPA of 2.0 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.

- ETSU will suspend academic dismissals in Spring 2020. Students may be placed on probation as warranted.
- ETSU will include a transcript note on all academic records, regardless of grading basis, indicating the extraordinary circumstances of the global health emergency during Spring 2020.

INCOMPLETE GRADING FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Undergraduate students may still receive a grade of “I” (Incomplete) for courses taken in the Spring 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 COVID-19, faculty are encouraged to use broader discretion in assigning a grade of “I” (Incomplete) in Spring 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 for GPA will be suspended in Spring 2020. Students may be placed on probation if the GPA is lower than the required 3.0 for graduation.

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.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Regardless of the grading method used, reasonable adherence to the federal definition of credit hour specifying time and effort expectations is required for each course whether offered remotely or face-to-face.
- The student learning outcomes established for the course must be met and should not be altered based not the change in grading assignments. Assignments or exams may be altered to demonstrate learning objectives in a revised delivery format.

Approved: Academic Council, March 30, 2020

Approved: President Noland, March 30, 2020

Considering the Pass/Fail Option?

Your academic and financial aid advisors can help you decide. Here are some issues you should consider:

YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will probably make a D, D+, or C- in this class if I don't change anything in terms of my effort. • I have struggled with the class even when it was face-to-face, and I may be failing it right now. • 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 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 or graduate 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, veteran educational benefits, or other funding/support that depends upon a letter grade in this course. • I plan to apply to Nursing school and must have a C or better in this course. • Currently, dual enrollment students are required to earn letter grades in their classes, before choosing P/F check with your advisor for the latest requirements.

*modified from the University of Louisville