

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 (11:50 am) – Guidance on A/Pass/Fail Grade Option for Students

Dear Colleagues,

With apologies for any repeat notification, please see the note below from Provost Taber about A/Pass/Fail options for students.

~Tanya

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Dear Academic Administrators, Faculty, and Staff

Our students, faculty and staff have shown a tremendous amount of resolve in their commitment to supporting the important work of teaching, learning, advising, scholarship, creative work, and engagement during this time of disruption. The shift to remote delivery of instruction and work has not been easy, and it is inspiring to see the many ways our university community has shown strength in meeting our challenges.

Our students are in their second week of remote learning and we are deeply aware of the challenges many are experiencing in adjusting to new learning platforms and conditions. Some of our students are managing divided responsibilities, intermittent to no internet access, increased financial pressures, and separation from the support network and resources on which they could rely on their campuses. As we moved into remote instruction, we established a guiding principle to focus on the well-being, health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and communities.

In recognition of the above factors and after considering the perspectives of students, faculty, and academic administrators, the following university-wide grading policies will be in effect for Spring 2020:

- For all students, undergraduate and graduate, we are extending the deadline for selecting to have a course graded A/Pass/Fail to Friday, May 8, 2020.
- The default option is for students to receive a letter grade. Students need to notify the Office of the Registrar only if they want the A/Pass/Fail option for a particular course.
- Students may choose the A/Pass/Fail option for individual courses; that is, an A/Pass/Fail selection does not apply to all courses taken by the student this semester.
- Students who choose the A/Pass/Fail option will need to submit the A/P/F Agreement Form to the [Office of the Registrar](#). The form will require the signature of the academic advisor for undergraduate students and the advisor/major professor and program director for graduate students.

- Students who wish to change their selected grading option back to the original grade will be directed to submit an appeal form to the [Office of the Registrar](#).
- Program/Graduation restrictions on the allowable number of A/Pass/Fail courses shall be waived for courses taken during this term.
- “Pass” grades will not be included in any GPA calculations (either cumulative or term) or in determinations of undergraduate Honors and of academic standing. “A” and “F” grades, however, will be included in GPA calculations and with respect to the policies concerning GPA requirements.
- Consistent with our current practice, faculty will still be required to enter a letter grade that will be converted to A, P or F.
- A grade of D or better is required for a Pass in all undergraduate courses. A grade of C or better is required for a Pass in all graduate courses.
- For students who select the A/Pass/Fail option, the university will not provide or verify the letter grade submitted.
- The option is exclusively the choice of the student. Faculty may not convert the entire class to an A/Pass/Fail option.
- Faculty will not be notified of a student’s choice. The decision by a student to use the A/Pass/Fail option is treated with strict confidentiality.
- Undergraduate students should reach out to advisors with questions regarding the adjusted university-wide grading policies. Graduate students should reach out to their advisor/major professors or graduate program director if they have questions.

We are committed to providing students the opportunity to make a well-informed decision and to equip advisors with information to successfully guide students. The adjustment to our A/Pass/Fail grading option will be announced to students in tomorrow’s K-State Today. Additional information will also be available tomorrow on the [FAQs section](#) of the Office of the Registrar website.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to evaluate the many important questions and key processes that affect our students’ academic success and well-being. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other as we stay [#kstatestrong](#).

Chuck

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Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Professor of Political Science
Kansas State University