
Spring and Summer 2020 FAQs (archive document)

Summer 2020 shift to online teaching: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Kansas State University summer school courses across all of our campuses will be administered online. In recognition of this unprecedented time, we have developed a revised summer 2020 tuition and fee structure for undergraduate and graduate courses. [Click here for additional information.](#)

Spring 2020 Adjustments:

Academic Standing: *(added 5/22/2020)*

Changes to Criteria

- 1. I am a Graduate student or a Veterinary Medicine (DVM) student – are there any changes to the requirements for academic standing in spring 2020?**

No. Academic Standing for Graduate and Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students will continue under existing policies and exception requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- 2. Will K-State academically dismiss students if they do not meet overall standing good standing or warning requirements for spring 2020?**

No. The academic dismissal status is suspended for the spring 2020 semester. Students' current academic standing will be recalculated under current policies at the end of the student's next enrolled semester when the Academic Standing Policy resumes.

- 3. What will my academic standing reflect if I was supposed to be dismissed?**

Students who meet the traditional academic dismissal criteria will be shifted to Academic Warning. You will be referred to as an automatically reinstated student for spring 2020.

- 4. What type of support will be available for me as a student that initially met the criteria for academic dismissal?**

As a student that was shifted to Academic Warning, you should take advantage of the academic support services available to you. Your College will contact you to initiate a Learning Agreement designed to outline expectations and support for continuing your degree progression in summer and fall 2020.

'A'/Pass/Fail Grading Basis: *(added 3/31/20)*

Summary PDF of 'A'/Pass/Fail Policy for Spring 2020

ELIGIBILITY AND DEFINITIONS

- 1. How will Spring 2020 classes be graded?**

Faculty members will continue to record letter grades.

For Undergraduate students who select the 'A/Pass/Fail' option for a course, students earning a grade of A in the course will have an 'A' recorded on the transcript for that course; a grade of 'B', 'C', or 'D' will be recorded as 'P' - pass; a grade of 'F' will be recorded as fail.

For Graduate students who select the A/Pass/Fail option for a course, students earning a grade of A in the course will have an 'A' recorded on the transcript for that course; a grade of B or C will be recorded as 'P' -pass; a grade of 'D' or 'F' will be recorded as a fail.

All students will have the option to either earn the recorded letter grade or to select the 'A/Pass/Fail' option.

2. The University usually does not allow first-semester students to take classes on an 'A/Pass/Fail' basis. Does that rule still apply? *-(updated 04/09/20)*

No. The 'A/Pass/fail' option will be available for all undergraduate students for the Spring 2020 semester.

3. The University does not allow students who are on academic probation to take classes on an 'A/Pass/fail' basis. Does that rule still apply?

No. The 'A/Pass/fail' option is available regardless of your current academic standing for the Spring 2020 semester.

4. How will I know which of my Spring 2020 classes can be changed to 'A/Pass/Fail'? *-(updated 4/1/20)*

You will be able to select the 'A/Pass/Fail' grading basis for any class offered via the standard grading basis for the Spring 2020 semester. Any course graded as Credit/No-Credit cannot be converted to the 'A/Pass/Fail' grading basis.

5. Do the changes to 'A/Pass/Fail' grading for Spring 2020 apply to undergraduate students enrolled in post-baccalaureate classes?

Yes. Undergraduate students will have the option to select A/Pass/Fail grading for any of their classes for which 'A/Pass/Fail' grading is an option.

6. How does choosing the 'A/Pass/Fail' option affect my future financial aid eligibility?

If you are receiving financial aid, you will want to discuss the possible impacts of the decisions listed in this email with the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Differing types of financial assistance are likely to have differing Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) eligibility requirements.

Generally, choosing the 'A/Pass/Fail' grade option is likely to impact only your grade point average calculation (GPA). Under the 'A/Pass/Fail' option for a given course, a letter grade of 'A' or 'F' will contribute to your overall GPA calculation. However, earning a "Pass" under the 'A/Pass/Fail' option for a given course will have NO impact on your GPA calculation.

Consequently, we urge you to contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at fnaid@k-state well in advance of electing this grading option.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS:**1. Will these courses count against any limits on 'A'/Pass/Fail classes?**

No. Classes for which you select the A/Pass/Fail option for the Spring 2020 semester will not count toward any university limits on A/Pass/Fail classes.

2. Does this opportunity have any effect on classes that are already set up to be graded as 'A'/Pass/Fail (e.g., internships, practica, etc.)?

No. These changes to the rules and limits associated with A/Pass/Fail options do not apply to classes that are set up to be graded as A/Pass/Fail.

3. Will these courses count toward my degree requirements?

Yes. If you select the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis option, the course will count toward all appropriate degree requirements as if you had taken it on a graded basis. This also applies to major/minor requirements. The degree audit will be updated to reflect the change in 'A'/Pass/Fail rules for the Spring 2020 semester.

4. How will the changes to A/Pass/Fail affect repeated credit?

If you are repeating a course and select the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis for your repeated course, the grade for your previous attempt will no longer be factored into your GPA and any credits earned will be removed. If you earn a grade of 'A' or 'F' under the 'A'/Pass/Fail option this semester, the grades will be factored into your GPA.

5. How will this change affect my GPA? *-(updated 04/17/20)*

The grade of 'P' is not counted in the grade point average nor used in the determination of honors. The grade of 'A' or 'F' earned under the 'A'/Pass/Fail option is included in the calculation of the grade point average. {you can use the [GPA calculator](#) for assistance in determining possible GPA effects}

6. If I opt-in for 'A'/Pass/Fail, will I be able to register for courses in future semesters that have grade requirements to register?

Yes, any major or course requirement that lists a specific grade needed to progress will be set aside for this semester. A student who earns an 'A' or 'P' in that course will be allowed to progress in the program.

Like several other grading requirements in K-State policy, this requirement has been relaxed for the spring 2020 term in an effort to allow you to make progress toward your degree. As a result, all students will be able to use the 'P' grade as satisfying pre-requisite requirements for future registration and progression. Please note: you may need to work with your program in future semesters to obtain an appropriate override.

7. I am considering applying to a professional school e.g., law school or medical school) or am applying for professional licensure. Can I choose the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis for my classes?

Please speak with your advisor and/or the pre-professional advising resources. While we are making accommodations internally at K-State, we are unable to predict how the 'A'/Pass/Fail will be interpreted by outside entities. Some courses may need to be taken for a letter grade to satisfy licensure or other external requirements

8. If I choose the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis for my classes will this affect my options for getting into a graduate school program (i.e. Master's or higher)?

Please speak with your advisor and/or the College or program you are considering. While we are making accommodations internally at K-State, we are unable to predict how the 'A'/Pass/Fail will be interpreted by outside entities. Some courses may need to be taken for a letter grade to satisfy licensure or other external requirements.

9. How will this change affect honors? *-(updated 4/1/20)*

A: Any course for which you receive a Pass during the Spring 2020 semester will not be factored into the GPA calculations for honors. Grades of 'A' and 'F' are calculated into the GPA accordingly.

- a. The current policy for scholastic graduation hours for graduation will remain.

Bachelor degree candidates who will have completed a minimum of 60 undergraduate hours at Kansas State University with at least 42 credit hours in graded undergraduate courses at Kansas State University are considered for graduation with honors.

10. If I receive a high final grade in a course that I have designated for 'A'/Pass/Fail, may I later ask to go back to the original grade instead of the grade of 'P'? *-(updated 5/20/20)*

Yes. However, this option will require you to submit an appeal to the Office of the Registrar via the 'A'/Pass/Fail Appeal Form. This form **will require** a college review and signature via your primary major/program Dean's Office along with a written rationale and *proof of the extenuating circumstances* for switching the grade back.

The intent for the appeal option is to assist students that may have an extenuating circumstance or a situation change (i.e. change of major, etc...) where the original grade would be needed.

11. What if students require letter grades for professional programs, employment, or graduate studies?

Because the original letter grades will be recorded, it is possible for a student to request an official letter attesting to the original grades. This letter is only available for the application of an inquiry from a professional program, licensure, graduate studies, or an employer, should that be necessary. Requests of this nature are handled by the Office of the Registrar and are not provided as a substitution to the official academic transcript. We will ensure that those who require evidence of your academic achievements in the spring of 2020 will be able to have that information verified if required.

12. If I opt-in to the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis does that mean it will take the grade I have right now in the course and make it a pass (which would mean I do not have to do any more of my coursework)? *-(added 4/2/20)*

No, you still have to complete the coursework and requirements set forth by your instructor.

Before making any decisions, take some time to reflect on this policy, asking yourself what is the true motivation behind your decision. If it's simply to take the high road and expend little effort to pass your classes, we would encourage you to re-evaluate your motivations and goals moving forward. The intent of this policy is not to relax and take the rest of the semester off, but instead to help relieve some of your stress and anxiety due to this new learning environment caused by COVID19.

13. What happens if my professor submits an honor pledge violation on me? *-(added 4/24/20)*

As with any other semester, the Honor and Integrity System will send you a letter notifying you of the allegation. In that letter, you will be instructed to set up a meeting that will be held via zoom with the director to discuss the process. All students do still have the right to contest allegations and all hearings are being held via zoom. If your professor has told you that he/she has filed a report yet you have not heard from the Honor and Integrity System, please contact honor@ksu.edu.

14. If I am found responsible for an honor pledge violation, can I choose the A/Pass/Fail option for that class? -*(added 4/24/20)*

If you are found responsible for an honor pledge violation and receive more than a warning as a sanction, you will not be allowed to choose the A/Pass/Fail for the class in which you had the violation. You are still able to choose the option for your other classes.

DEADLINES AND PROCESSES:**1. What is the deadline for selecting 'A'/Pass/Fail options for my Spring 2020 class schedule?**

The deadline to submit the completed ['A'/Pass/Fail Opt-in Form](#) is Friday, May 8th at 5:00 pm CST to the Office of the Registrar at registrar@ksu.edu.

2. If I select 'A'/Pass/Fail grading for a class during the Spring 2020 semester, will I be able to repeat the course for a letter grade in a future semester?

Yes. As long as you meet all other requirements for repeating a course, you will be able to repeat a course in a future term for which you select the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading option during the Spring 2020 semester.

3. If I did not opt-in for the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading by the May 8, 2020 deadline can I appeal?

No. The 'A'/Pass/Fail option is only available for Spring 2020 courses from March 31, 2020, through May 8, 2020, at 5 pm CST. After this deadline, there will not be an appeal option to retroactively apply the A/Pass/Fail to any Spring 2020 course.

4. Are these changes to the 'A'/Pass/Fail rules permanent?

No. These changes are for the Spring 2020 semester only due to the impact of COVID-19.

5. Will this option apply for students who participated in Study Abroad programs during the Spring 2020 semester?

Yes. Students who participated in Study Abroad programs will be able to select KSU courses only to be posted to your student record as 'A'/Pass/Fail.

6. What do I do if my instructor is also my academic advisor?

If your academic advisor is also the instructor of your course, in order to maintain the confidentiality of your 'A'/Pass/Fail opt-in, please note on the form that your advisor is your instructor and send the form to the Department Head of your major for their signature. To locate your Department Head go to the [Colleges and Academic Units](#) > choose your academic department > look for an About or Directory section and then navigate to Faculty/Staff links. Most academic units will identify the Department Head under these headings. Otherwise, contact your [College Dean's Office](#) for assistance.

7. Why do I need to talk with and obtain a signature from my academic advisor/major professor, etc... to apply the 'A'/Pass/Fail option? -*(added 4/3/20)*

Your academic advisor/major professor is your best resource right now in providing guidance and recommendations on the effects of applying the 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis. Ultimately, this is still your choice and decision to move forward with this option, however, your advisor will let you know if there are long-term issues to be considered based on your future degree completion goals, as well as provide you with alternative points to consider.

7. I am graduating in spring 2020 - can I submit this appeal after my degree has been conferred? -(added 6/1/20)

No. Once your degree has been conferred changes to grades cannot be made based on the [Non-Permissible Changes to the Academic Record after Degree Posting](#) guidelines. Based on these guidelines, any graduating student for spring 2020 considering the 'A'/Pass/Fail Appeal to remove the A/Pass/Fail grading basis must have the completed form to their academic college prior to the **deadline of Monday, June 8, 2020**. This will ensure the college has time to review and submit to the Office of the Registrar.

IMPACT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS:**1. I am an international student. Will changing my classes to 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis for Spring 2020 impact my visa status?**

As long as you remain enrolled as a full-time student, changing your enrollments to 'A'/Pass/Fail grading basis for the Spring 2020 semester will not impact your status. However, if you have a sponsor that pays your tuition you may want to check with them prior to ensure there are no restrictions with your third-party payments that would prevent the 'A'/Pass/Fail option.

2. How does choosing the 'A'/Pass/Fail option affect my future financial aid eligibility?

If you are receiving financial aid, you will want to discuss the possible impacts of the decisions listed in this email with the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Differing types of financial assistance are likely to have differing Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) eligibility requirements.

Generally, choosing the 'A'/Pass/Fail grade option is likely to impact only your grade point average calculation (GPA). Under the 'A'/Pass/Fail option for a given course, a letter grade of 'A' or 'F' will contribute to your overall GPA calculation. However, earning a "Pass" under the 'A'/Pass/Fail option for a given course will have NO impact on your GPA calculation.

Consequently, we urge you to contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at finaid@k-state well in advance of electing this grading option.

3. I am a student-athlete. How does choosing the 'A'/Pass/Fail option affect my eligibility?

It could depend on your individual NCAA eligibility requirements. You are strongly encouraged to contact your academic sport counselor with any questions prior to making any changes to your grading option.

4. I am a student veteran. How does this impact my GI-Bill benefits?

Often, Veterans' Educational Benefits such as tuition/fees paid and/or housing allowance benefits will not be affected should a student elect to move from a letter grade evaluation to an 'A'/Pass/Fail evaluation, since eligibility for VA benefits are premised, primarily, upon the successful completion of the course. VA educational benefit recipients should, however, keep in mind that once a student has successfully completed a course – even if the final grade is a "Pass" – the VA will not pay for the student to repeat the course unless a higher grade for the class is required for the completion of the student's program of study.

Because each kind of aid has different rules and regulations, we recommend that if you are receiving aid, you check with the veteran benefits office at veteran@k-state.edu.

5. Who do I contact I have further questions about the changes to 'A'/Pass/Fail options for the Spring 2020 semester?

Please contact your academic advisor or the Office of the Registrar for questions.