

From: Joanne Bruno

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To: Faculty

Subject: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Pass or Fail (P/F) Grading Option for spring 2020

Faculty Colleagues:

As you may know, the Office of the Provost has been working closely and collaboratively with our Registrar, Local APSCUF Leadership, and UWCC representatives on an interim policy for P/F for spring 2020 for select undergraduate courses. I am pleased to announce that today we have finalized the Interim Policy for Pass/Fail (P/F) Grading option that "squares" with our concerns for student satisfactory academic progress, major requirements, accreditation/MSCHE requirements, licensure/certification requirements, and post baccalaureate planning, including graduate school admissions. Please refer to the spring 2020 grading option policy below which represents an amendment to the current catalog/academic policies. The amended policy will also be posted shortly on the University web pages at the appropriate location.

I want to once extend my appreciation to the many folks, starting with the core group referenced above, that brought us to today's announcement. A student announcement, attached as the second attachment, will be going out right after this email message to all faculty. We trust that the ESU Grading Option Policy for spring 2020 will bring some relief to the stress our students and faculty have been experiencing with this very rapid shift to full online delivery. Be safe and see you online.

Pass or Fail (P/F) Grading Option for spring 2020

Undergraduate students may opt to have their grade(s) in credit-bearing courses recorded as a Pass or Fail (P/F) for spring 2020 in selected undergraduate courses. Selection of the Pass or Fail option is only available during the two-week window, May 15, 2020 to May 29, 2020, following the posting of the course grades. Students should contact their major department chair to select the Pass or Fail grade option. If students do not opt for Pass or Fail, the grade will remain as the posted grade, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, or E. Pass (P) indicates satisfactory completion of a credit-bearing course with a grade of D or better. Credits earned in a course in which a Pass (P) is awarded will be counted toward the number of semester hours of credit required for graduation.* Failure to do passing work in such a course will be graded F. The grade of Pass or Fail (P/F) will not be used in the computation of cumulative grade point average.

For the Pass or Fail (P/F) grade option, students should consider these points:

- Students should contact their major department chair to determine which of their courses can be taken with the Pass or Fail (P/F) option to ensure that the Pass or Fail (P/F) grade aligns with major requirements.*
- A Pass or Fail (P/F) does not affect the cumulative grade point average.

- Students may repeat a course(s) graded as Fail (F) for credit according to the University's grade repeat policy (2019-2020 Undergraduate Catalog, Page 23).
- Students may not repeat a course(s) passed using the Pass (P) grade option for credit.
- Regardless of the grading option, all students are expected to complete the same requirements for the course.
- Students submitting a request to opt into the Pass or Fail (P/F) grade process acknowledges that the Pass or Fail (P/F) grade may affect the academic progress toward completion of the major and/or other post baccalaureate activities including graduate admission requirements.

*This option may impact students' financial aid eligibility. Students are strongly encouraged to contact a financial aid counselor at fa@esu.edu.

Grade Definitions

- **P (Pass)** – indicates satisfactory completion of a credit course (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, or D) and is not included in the calculation of the grade point average.
- **F (Fail)** – indicates unsatisfactory completion of a credit course (E) and is not computed in the calculation of the grade point average.

Timeline

Traditional grades will be posted and students will have a two-week window (May 15, 2020 to May 29, 2020) to select the Pass or Fail (P/F) grade option.

Joanne "Jo" Z. Bruno, J.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs