



**TO:** All Faculty

**FROM:** Kevin P. Kearns, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**SUBJ:** Academic Grading Policy Updates for Spring 2020

**DATE:** April 1, 2020

I'm writing to share Fredonia's updated grading policy and changes for the Spring 2020 semester. SUNY has requested that we be as flexible as possible in temporarily modifying our policies to support students through this crisis. The following grading policy addresses Pass/Fail guidelines, extension of the Withdrawal Deadline, and a temporary Pause on Academic Dismissals. The updated policy changes were made with input and consultation with the Academic Standings Committee, University Senate Executive and Academic Affairs Committee members, and the Provost's Council. The policy was crafted within the framework of guidelines by SUNY and is generally consistent with changes adopted by other SUNY comprehensive campuses. Please note the following date changes as you review the policy: the course withdrawal deadline is April 27th, final grades are due from faculty on May 26th, and the deadline for students to choose a Pass/Fail grade is May 31st.

Thanks for supporting our students during these challenging times.

[Academic Grading Policy Updates for Spring 2020](#)

### **Pass/Fail Guidelines**

Due to the implementation of remote instruction during the spring 2020 semester, SUNY Fredonia has modified its policy on Pass/Fail grades. This temporary modification applies only to the spring 2020 semester. We hope that this change will alleviate some of the stress associated with the transition to remote learning and will accommodate students whose studies are disrupted by this situation. Students should consult with their academic advisor and the Office of Financial Aid before selecting the pass/fail option.

- Permission to Pass/Fail as a grading mode is extended beyond the end of the semester (**May 31, 2020**),

- All courses elected in the P/F grading mode will count to satisfy any degree requirement: general education, courses for a major, courses for a minor courses for a concentration, etc.
- Requests for the P/F grading mode during the spring 2020 semester are *reversible*, even after students receive their course grades. The deadline to request a reversal (change from P/F to normal grading or normal grading to P/F) is May 31, 2020.
  1. To earn a grade of “P,” a student must earn a D- or better in the course to receive academic credit. For advising purposes, a P\* will be listed on the student transcript for an equivalent letter grade of C- or above; a P- will be listed on a transcript for equivalent letter passing grades below C- (i.e. D+, D, or D-).
  2. “Pass/Fail” grading is GPA neutral — your GPA is unaffected, whether or not you earn the credit. For the spring 2020 semester only, an “F” grade will not be calculated into a student’s GPA. No academic credits will be earned for courses in which an F grade is earned.
  3. You may change the grading mode of your course even after your professor has submitted the final grade. Final grades will be available for student viewing on or before 5/26/20.
  4. If you are repeating a course in which you previously earned a letter grade, including and F, you may elect a Pass/Fail grade during the spring 2020. If a “P” grade is achieved it will replace the previous letter grade and eliminate the previous grade from your GPA.
  5. Taking courses P/F will not affect seniors’ ability to graduate “with honors” (i.e., cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude) as long as they maintain qualifying GPAs.
  6. Dean's List (GPA 3.3 or better) qualifications still require 12 credits of “normal graded” work and appropriate GPAs.
  7. All students are eligible to elect any course P/F this semester (spring 2020), regardless of class standing or GPA.
  8. There is no limit on the number of courses you may elect P/F this semester, and we will not “count” this semester toward the normal restriction of 16 credit hours taken Pass/Fail total for degree programs.
  9. Degree Works is not currently programmed to recognize that courses elected with a P/F grading mode can fulfill requirements – do not panic. You are assured that courses in which you earn a “P” will count this semester for courses in majors, minors, concentrations, and General Education.
  10. Students in professional programs, including those in the School of Education, should obtain additional guidance about P/F grades and certification requirements from academic advisor.

11. Students working toward careers in health and medicine should contact their academic advisor for information on what medical and related schools expect with regard to required courses being "graded" or "Pass/Fail."

### **Extension of Withdrawal Deadline**

You may now withdraw yourself from a course until **April, 27, 2020**. Please check the Registrar's Office website for procedures at <https://www.fredonia.edu/academics/registrar>. Please also check with Financial Aid (716-673-3253) regarding the impact of withdrawing from a course on your financial aid package before withdrawing from courses.

### **Pause on Academic Dismissals**

No student will be dismissed from Fredonia for academic reasons at the end of spring 2020, including students whose current status is "Academic Probation".

The Office of Academic Advising will contact students who might benefit from voluntarily pausing their studies at Fredonia to build academic skills elsewhere, but every current student will be permitted to return to Fredonia for the fall 2020 semester if they choose to do so.