

**Response to Global Health Emergency  
Emergency Grading Accommodation  
Office of the University Registrar  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
March 20, 2020**

*The emergency grading accommodation goes into place on March 23, 2020 and will be active for the Spring 2020 semester only (at this time) to address the global health pandemic.*

***Pass/Fail Grading***

As of March 23, 2020, UNC will expand the pass/fail option for undergraduate students. Undergraduate students can choose the pass/fail option for undergraduate courses in which they are registered in the Spring 2020 semester. Students, including undergraduates, enrolled in professional schools or programs in the Graduate School will follow the decisions of their professional school or of the Graduate School about which courses, if any, are eligible for pass/fail declaration.

The Deans of the Graduate and professional schools will have full discretion and oversight of courses in their schools or under their purview to make decisions regarding pass/fail. Deans will be expected to communicate any grading accommodation to professional and graduate students by Friday March 27. This discretion is necessary due to the more individualized learning experiences and discipline-specific nature of graduate education. Schools and departments that have separate accreditation or licensure requirements must have the authority to make decisions concerning pass/fail grading that comply with the standards and requirements of accreditors and external boards.

**How this Accommodation Applies to Undergraduate Students**

- All courses will be graded as normal (letter grades). Undergraduates can choose to make their courses pass/fail for the Spring 2020 semester with the exception of Graduate or professional school courses, which can be taken as pass/fail only when deemed appropriate by the program or school Dean.
  - Ex. An undergraduate in the School of Education would need to confer with their Dean or designee to validate whether or not an education course can be placed on pass/fail due to licensure concerns.
- The current policies on courses that would be declared pass/fail will be suspended for the Spring 2020 semester.
- A grade of pass will not be factored into the GPA; however, these courses will count towards earned semester hours.
- Courses graded as pass/fail under this exception during Spring 2020 will count towards applicable curricular, major, continuation, and graduation requirements.
- Consistent with the current criteria for students who opted for pass/fail grading, letter grades of A-D would be converted to a pass. F grades will be converted to a fail.
- Consistent with the current criteria for students who opt for pass/fail grading, faculty members will not be aware of students who elect the pass/fail grading option when entering final grades. Grades will be entered in the format for which the course was approved (letter grades).
- Students who previously elected to take a course on a pass/fail basis, will continue on a pass/fail basis. These students can elect to change their course from pass/fail to a letter grade.

- For the Spring 2020 semester, undergraduate students can elect to place a course on pass/fail or remove the course from pass/fail by no later than Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- For the Spring 2020 semester, students who elect to place a course on or remove a course from pass/fail will do so through the Office of the University Registrar. A form will be available on the University Registrar website for the student to confirm what courses to place on or off pass/fail through Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Given this grading shift, we will suspend the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester.
- UNC-Chapel Hill will include a transcript note on all academic records, regardless of grading basis, indicating the extraordinary circumstances of the global public health emergency during Spring 2020.

### **Assumptions**

- Regardless of the grading basis used, reasonable adherence to the federal definition of a 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 on the change in grading basis.

### **'CV' Grade**

As of March 23, 2020, the University will create a new grade of 'CV' as an alternative to the Incomplete ('IN') grade for any undergraduate student adversely affected by the public health emergency. This grade will also be used to identify courses that may need to extend past the Spring semester.

### **How this will apply:**

- A 'CV' grade will work similarly to an 'IN' grade for an individual student. As with an 'IN' grade, a student could pass the course; however, the student requires more time to complete particular assignments after the course has ended. Once work is complete, the grade will convert to a letter grade, or, if the course applies can change to pass/fail.
- 'CV' grades address the mid-semester change in instructional experience of a student, accessibility and equity issues with students who are unable to move to remote learning and reflect that delayed coursework is due to the global public health emergency.
- The 'CV' designation will also be used for courses that are unable to transition to a different remote method of instruction and require continuation past the affected term (Spring 2020).
- 'CV' grades will not be included in GPA calculation, will not count towards credits earned, will not satisfy graduation requirements, and will not be calculated as a 0.00 GPA for eligibility and financial aid (SAP) processing.
- Deadlines to replace 'CV' designations with permanent grades will extend past the typical 8 weeks into the following semester for undergraduates and past the year for graduate students differentiating it from the 'IN' grade. An additional three months will be added to the original deadlines to allow students more time to complete work. (This may need review depending on disruptions caused by the global health emergency)