

Subject: From the Provost: University extends course withdrawal date, responds to pass/fail questions
Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 at 3:06:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: UofL Update
To: UofL Update

Cardinal Community,

In response to the unique challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are announcing several changes to our calendars and processes that will affect students and faculty this Fall and in the Spring semester

First, we have pushed the Fall 2020 course withdrawal date to Nov. 17. This will give students more time to review their progress in courses before deciding if they wish to withdraw. It is not too late to recommit to academics. If your grades aren't where they should be, or if you're doing the bare minimum to get by in your classes, now is the time to hit the reset button. Visit your advisor, REACH or the Writing Center for assistance. Reach out to your professors and instructors and create a plan with specific steps to improve not only your academic performance, but also your academic experience.

Also, following discussion with the Academic Scenario Planning Committee, the university will **not** reinstate a pass/fail policy implemented for the Spring 2020 semester. Faculty this summer had overwhelmingly supported returning to the pre-Covid policy on pass/fail, and accrediting bodies and many professional schools that agreed to accept pass/fail grades for Spring have not extended that option for this semester. The [full explanation](#) for the decision is posted in the student FAQs on the UofL Covid web site.

The committee also is recommending that all units and/or programs that award scholarships extend their appeals processes so that students whose Fall 2020 GPA adversely impacts their scholarship status may make an appeal to maintain funding, and the registrar will not process negative academic standing actions. For more information on these actions, see the "Academics" section of the [student FAQs](#).

Finally, I want to remind you that – as we announced earlier this week -- we will move the start of the Spring 2021 semester to Jan. 11, and we will be offering a two-day Spring Break Thursday and Friday, March 4 and 5. Following the advice of public health professionals, UofL joins all other Kentucky universities, as well as others in the area, including the University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University and Indiana University, in canceling or reducing its break. Health officials consider Spring Break travel highly risky during a pandemic, and we anticipate we will be living with the virus through the Spring 2021 semester.

Thank you to all our students, faculty and staff for your continued efforts and positive attitudes during this unprecedented time.

Best,

Beth A. Boehm
Executive Vice President and University Provost