

Subject: FW: From the Provost: New pass/fail policy and other resources for students
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 at 2:37:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: UofL Update,Service Account
To: Walsh, Erica, Peter, Amber Dunlap
Attachments: Pass Fail Policy for Spring 2020 (002).pdf, Study Habits during COVID 19.pdf

The provost asked us to include both of these attached documents on the site as well.

Thanks,

John

From: UofL Update,Service Account
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 12:39 PM
To: UofL Update,Service Account <ulupdate@louisville.edu>
Subject: From the Provost: New pass/fail policy and other resources for students

Students,

I know that some of you are nervous about the online environment. As I said in a previous note, many of your instructors are worried, too. Like you, they didn't choose remote delivery of classes, and I have asked them to do their best, knowing they won't be perfect. I am asking the same of you. Success might mean something different this semester than it would in a "normal" semester: it might mean not giving up when you are tempted to; it might mean finishing all of the courses you signed up for without stressing about grades; it might mean practicing social distancing to keep yourself and others safe and healthy; it might mean finding out that you are stronger than you thought.

To help you take on the challenges of this semester, effective immediately, **all undergraduate and graduate students will be permitted to convert any of their courses to pass/fail grading.** All courses for which you receive passing (P) grades will count toward degree requirements, which overrides some program and college policies. At the undergraduate level, all grades of D- or better for which you elect the pass/fail grade will convert to a P; at the graduate level, all grades of C- or better will convert to a P. Pass grades do not impact GPA, but an F will be calculated into your GPA. The entire policy is attached to this email and will be posted to our COVID-19 website: please check it out for details and talk with your advisor or faculty mentor before making a decision if you have concerns. We are not currently processing requests for withdraws from courses, or from the university, that were submitted after the beginning of spring break; we want you to try to meet the challenge of this semester and to not give up. You can pass your courses, earn credits toward your degree, and not fall behind without a negative impact to your GPA. Since it is already too late to receive any refunds, we will wait until the last week of the semester to process requests to withdraw.

We are doing our best to help you finish the semester strong under stressful conditions. In addition to the pass/fail policy, I am attaching a Guide to Adjusting Study Habits during COVID-19: <http://louisville.edu/delphi/-/files/Adjusting-Your-Study-Habits-During-COVID.pdf>. The last page offers resources UofL is providing to help you: technical support for Blackboard, the virtual Writing Center and online REACH tutoring services, and Microsoft Teams for staying connected to your classmates, your instructors and your friends during social distancing.

Additionally, the Counseling Center is taking phone calls and counseling by phone, and Campus Health is open (but please call first). Charter will offer **free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days** to college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription for students who need access to wifi (<https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>). Please utilize these resources and others that will help you succeed.

When my son was in first grade, I baked a cake to celebrate the day he came home sobbing with a less than perfect grade. I wanted him to learn what I hope you will learn this semester: success is doing your best, not being perfect. Do your best to trust that your faculty are on your side and will help you succeed; do your best to meet your deadlines and to ask for help when you need it; do your best to be kind, patient and compassionate toward others, since we are all struggling this semester; do your best to roll with the punches and finish the courses you started. Finally, do your best to take care of yourself. We want you here. We are fighting for your success.

Best,

Beth

Beth A. Boehm, PhD
Executive Vice President and University Provost