

## Spring 2020 Alternative Grading Option Policy for Undergraduate Students

This policy applies *only* to undergraduate students and *only* to undergraduate courses. It is in effect for *only* the Spring 2020 semester. Colleges may elect to follow similar policies for graduate programs, including the professional phase of the pharmacy program (P1-P4 years), and will communicate with students in any programs wherein an analogous grading option is offered.

Under this new policy, the University introduces an alternative grading option for undergraduate students enrolled in undergraduate courses during the Spring 2020 semester. The alternative grading option is as follows:

- Satisfactory (S). Students who earn a letter grade of C- or better in any given course may elect to have their grade for that course recorded as Satisfactory (S). Courses recorded as S *will* count toward the major or minor, the core curriculum, the language proficiency requirement (in colleges where applicable), and fulfill prerequisite requirements for subsequent courses required for the program of study. However, courses recorded as S *will not* be included in the calculation of the grade point average (GPA), either for the Spring 2020 semester or the cumulative GPA. Transcripts will include notation that S indicates completion of a course with a letter grade of C- or better in a course taken during Spring 2020, when instruction was shifted online halfway through the semester.
- Pass (P). Students who earn a letter grade of D-, D, or D+ in any given course may elect to have their grade for that course recorded as Pass (P). Courses recorded as P may satisfy any requirement that *only* requires a D- or better. If a student has to earn a C- or better in a course to fulfill a requirement (e.g., major, minor, prerequisite, language-proficiency, or other requirement), then a P *will not* satisfy that requirement. In addition, courses recorded as P *will not* be included in the calculation of the GPA, either for the Spring 2020 semester or the cumulative GPA. Transcripts will include notation that P indicates completion of a course with a letter grade of D-, D, or D+ during Spring 2020 when instruction was shifted online halfway through the semester.

Please note that regardless of whether students elect the standard A-F grading option or the alternative grading option, students who earn a letter grade of F will have the course grade recorded as F, which *is* included in the calculation of the GPA, both for Spring 2020 semester and the cumulative GPA.

At the end of the Spring 2020 semester, faculty will post final course grades in letter grade format on May 7. Students will have until Friday, May 15 at 5 pm EDT to opt for alternative grades for any or all Spring 2020 courses.

The office of Registration and Records will then change grades for selected courses to S or P (or retain any F), whichever is appropriate for course performance, as indicated above. **Once the alternative grading option is requested, it is irrevocable and will not be reverted to standard A-F grading at any point in time for any reason.**

Students are strongly encouraged to talk with their academic adviser, pre-professional adviser, financial aid counselor, intercollegiate athletics coach, and any other important advisers before

deciding to elect the alternative grading option for any or all courses. Students are encouraged to discuss with these advisers in advance of May 7, when students will be able to make the alternative grade designation for any or all of their courses. Advisers may recommend that students *not* elect the alternative grading option for various reasons (e.g., graduate or professional program entry requirements, athletic eligibility, effort to improve cumulative GPA, etc.) However, the choice to select the alternative grading option resides with the individual student.

The alternative grading option is *only* available for courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester and will *not* be available for any subsequent term. It is *not* available for courses that were scheduled to end prior to spring break.

Students who are taking Spring 2020 classes that may only be taken Pass/Fail (e.g., Physical Well-Being) or who have already selected the Pass/Fail grading option (<https://www.butler.edu/bulletin/regulations-definitions>) for a given course are *not* affected by this policy.