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### **Grading System**

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Ohio Valley University wants to support the academic needs of our student body and also effectively communicate a change to the grading system for Spring and Summer 2020 semesters. University Leadership has decided to maintain the current letter grading system but will also allow students to choose the pass/fail grading option. The pass/fail option will be voluntary and student-initiated. Students wishing to remain on a letter grade basis will not be required to move to pass/fail option. The details of the process and an associated timeline are outlined below and will be posted on [www.ovu.edu](http://www.ovu.edu).

To ensure transparency, please be aware of the following points:

1. To ensure academic integrity and accreditation standards, Faculty and Instructors are encouraged to maintain our history's high academic standards and are to hold to syllabus policy established at the beginning of the semester. The grade mode will not be changed on any course.
2. Faculty will grade students according to the procedure outlined in the course syllabus.
3. Once the course is completed, students have the option to change from the grade mode of "B", "C", "D", or "F" to a Pass/Fail option by contacting their advisor and completing the grade change form. Students who earn an "A" for a course will not be eligible for the pass/fail option.
4. According to the Academic Catalog, some courses have a minimum grade in order to receive credit. In these situation, students must obtain the minimum grade but have the option to accept the grade or opt for the Pass/Fail option. If students do not obtain the minimum grade, they can opt for the Pass/Fail grade but must repeat the course.
5. Although the deadline has passed to withdraw from a course without penalty, students may also opt to withdraw from a course. If students opt to withdraw from a course, a "W" will be placed on the student's transcript. If a student withdraws from a class, the student will be required to repeat the course to receive credit.
6. Changing to the pass/fail option can be done on a course-by-course basis. Students can choose to change one, several, all, or none of their courses.
7. If students do not opt-in to move a course to a Pass/Fail option, students will receive a letter grade as outlined in the syllabus in each course.
8. This is an important decision that may have several financial aid, admissions and program impacts and should not be taken lightly. Students must meet and consult with their advisor in all areas before finalizing their decision to convert to a Pass/Fail grade.
9. A passing grade counts in the student's attempted and earned hours.

10. Students must be informed about the impact of changing to the pass/fail option as there are circumstances that OVU cannot control including the future admissions requirements of graduate and professional programs, information requested by employers, and documentation needed to maintain good academic standing for certain scholarships.
11. Probation Status - Students currently on probation hoping to improve their GPA should note that courses in P/F grading mode do not count positively toward GPA and cannot be used to improve your term or overall GPA.
12. To provide students with adequate time to make this decision, students can change to the pass/fail grade option **or Withdraw** from a class between May 8, 2020 and May 29, 2020. After May 29, all grades will be final.
13. Students must initiate the Pass/Fail or Withdraw process with their Academic Advisor who can provide the necessary form. Students must complete the **Grade Change and Transcript Request Form – COVID19** and provide it to their Advisor. The Advisor will forward the completed information onto the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office will then change the grade to the appropriate grade of P or F.
14. If students have any concerns, they can contact the Registrar's Office or the Dean of Faculty.