

**Date:** April 27, 2020  
**To:** FMU Students  
**From:** Adrienne T. Cooper, Provost  
**Re:** **COVID-19 Academic Update II**

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As you are aware, the University is providing students with the option of changing the grading in any or all courses from the standard letter grade to Pass/Unsatisfactory (P/U) for the Spring 2020 semester in consideration of the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on teaching and learning. This means that instead of receiving a traditional letter grade (A to F), students may choose to receive a grade of “P” (passing) or “U” (unsatisfactory). This option is *not available* for courses for which the grading period ended prior to March 20, 2020.

### **Implications of P/U Grading Option**

The benefit is that neither the grade of P nor U is calculated in the students’ GPA; students will not receive course credit for a grade of U. However, the P/U grade selection could have **negative outcomes** for students who need to increase their GPA to avoid academic probation or loss of financial aid. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their decisions with the Office of Financial Aid and/or their academic advisors.

### **Instructions for P/U Grading Option**

In order to select the P/U grading option, students should complete the survey located in your Blackboard course shell. The survey is set up as an exam and can be found either in the Syllabus, Course Content, or Information area for most classes. If you are unable to find the survey in your Blackboard course, please contact your instructor immediately. Instructions for the survey are as follows:

- If you want to choose the P/U grading scale, select Yes.
- If you want to keep the letter grade scale, select No.

A survey must be completed **for each course** in which you are enrolled to indicate your choice for grade type (A-F letter grade or P/U). The choice of a P/U grade type **is final and cannot be reversed**, so please consider it carefully. The survey opened April 20, 2020, and **will close at 11:59 PM on May 2, 2020**. Students who do not opt-in to the P/U grade option will receive a course grade on the traditional letter grade scale (A to F). For additional information on the P/U option, please check the FAQs at the Registrar’s web page, <https://www.fmuniv.edu/registrars-office/faqs/>.

### **Summer and Fall Registration**

Registration for summer and fall terms is now open and advisors are conducting virtual advisement for returning students. Please contact your advisor and complete your registration via self-service.

Our wish for you is that you do well on your final examinations and finish the semester strong. Please continue to stay safe and follow the guidelines of health officials. For more information about the university’s response to the challenges of the novel coronavirus visit [fmuniv.edu/coronavirus](https://www.fmuniv.edu/coronavirus)