



Rivier University Pass/Fail Policy  
for Spring 2020 only  
in response to the COVID-19 disruption

March 30, 2020

1. All Rivier University will have the opportunity to opt for a Pass/Fail grade in any course (see exceptions below) prior to the final grade submission on May 5, 2020. The option to have a “P” will replace any letter grade other than an “F” on the official transcript.
2. Faculty will issue grades as usual for all students as outlined in the course syllabus. These may be a letter grade or a P/F grade. Students who opt for a Pass/Fail should inform the instructor of their decision by May 1, 2020, 11:59 PM (ET).
3. Only letter grades are included in GPA calculations. Students should make the choice between a letter grade and the Pass/Fail option carefully, with guidance from their respective Dean, Department Coordinator, Program Director, and/or Academic and Career Advisor, or Success Coach.
4. We recognize that letter grades are a fundamental element for grade-based internal processes and certain program requirements. When a student elects to have a “P” replace a letter grade for one or more courses on their transcript, this “P” will not be used in calculating the GPA. Undergraduates who choose letter grades will still be considered for Dean’s List. If students choose to have one or more grades recorded as Pass/Fail, they will **not** be eligible for Dean’s List.

Students who are on Academic Probation for Spring 2020 and choose the Pass/Fail grading option will have their current academic standing continued for their next semester. For example, if a student is currently on Academic Probation, their status for Fall 2020 will remain the same if they choose to convert their grades to Pass/Fail. Students on Academic Probation who choose letter grades for Spring 2020 will have their academic status reevaluated at the end of the semester.

5. For the Spring 2020 semester, “P” grades may be applied to courses that are part of major requirements, degree requirements, and elective courses, with the exception of any specific accreditation, certification, licensure, or other restrictions. The Deans will work with Department Coordinators, Program Directors, and Academic and Career Advisors to identify specific courses for which students should be advised of the consequences of opting for “P” grade. This is particularly important for Nursing and Education.
6. Once the final grades are submitted, there will no grade appeal to change the “P” to a letter grade.
7. **Transcript annotation.** Rivier University transcripts for students registered for courses during the Spring 2020 will include a statement explaining that the COVID-19 outbreak and the University’s decision to switch to remote-only instruction partway through the Spring 2020 semester caused unusual disruptions.
8. **Future availability of this policy.** This optional grading system is available to students only during the 2020 Spring Semester and is being implemented in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Can I change my mind after I've put in my request to switch?**

- Yes, as long as it's by the May 1 deadline. Please email your professor with your decision.

**If I want to stay with A-through-F letter grades for all of my classes, do I have to do anything?**

- No.

**If I plan to go to graduate school, law school, or medical school, what should I do?**

- Other schools might not count "P" grades when determining admissions to graduate, law, or medical school.

**How do P/F grades work for students on academic probation?**

- Students on academic probation may choose the P/F option in their classes, but they still need to move their cumulative GPA above 2.0.

**Will a P/F for a class impact my ability to be on the Dean's List?**

- Full-time status for Dean's List calculation is determined by a minimum of 12 credit hours of letter grades ("A" through "F"). To earn a spot on the Dean's list, you would need to have at least 12 credits hours be graded as A-F.

**Will Latin Honors for graduation be impacted by "P"?**

- No.

**If I choose the P/F option for a class, does that mean I am now done in the class?**

- No. Making this choice does not mean that the class is over. You will still need to do what is necessary to achieve a passing grade in order to earn an "P".

**How does a P/F notation impact my GPA? Will they count as completed credit hours?**

- A Pass notation has no designated GPA and will not count in your overall GPA. A Fail notation will be calculated into your GPA as normal. Both the P and the F notations will count as completed credit hours.

**Who can I speak to if I have more questions?**

- Questions should be directed to your Department Coordinators, Program Directors, Academic & Career Advisor, or Success Coach.