

In an effort to reassure students of their ability to make academic progress in their courses and programs during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, students will be able to opt for a change from a traditional letter grade to a “pass/fail” grade for the Spring 2020 term.

## Is Choosing a “Pass/Fail” Grading Structure Right for You?

### YES

*Pass/Fail may be a good option for you if...*

- You are thinking of withdrawing from a class. A “W” grade will affect academic progress and may affect your financial aid. A “fail” grade (“F\*”) will affect neither your academic progress nor your financial aid.
- Learning through an online modality is outside of your comfort zone and you are concerned about your ability to perform to your typical standards.
- You have other special circumstances that prevent you from performing to your typical standards.
- You do **not** need to see an increase in your GPA in order to gain entrance into a particular major at HCCC or program at a four-year institution.
- You are taking Developmental English/Reading, Developmental Mathematics, ESL, or English 101 classes. Your GPA, academic standing, or financial aid will not be impacted.

### NO

*Pass/Fail may not be a good option for you if...*

- Your traditional grade in the course will improve your GPA.
- You need to see an increase in your GPA in order to gain entrance into a particular major at HCCC or program at a four-year institution.
- You are currently a student in one of the following programs, or you are currently taking ENG-101 and plan to enter one of the following programs:
  - o Education;
  - o Emergency Medical Technician;
  - o Nursing;
  - o Occupational Therapy Assistant;
  - o Practical Nursing;
  - o Paramedic Science;
  - o Pre-Nursing; or,
  - o Radiography

### Other Factors to Consider

- **Changing Your Major:**  
Are you thinking of changing your major to one of these programs: Education, Emergency Medical Technician, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Practical Nursing, Paramedic Science, Pre-Nursing, or Radiography?  
*If so, then Pass/Fail grading is not a good option for you.*
- **Grade Point Average:**  
Pass/Fail grading neither improves nor harms your GPA.
- **Academic Probation:**  
If you are on academic probation, HCCC encourages you to talk to your academic advisor before opting into a “Pass/Fail” grading structure.
- **Transfer Pathways:**  
HCCC is working with its transfer partners to ensure a smooth pathway. Information from our transfer partners will be posted on <https://www.hccc.edu/Corona-virus-Resources/> as it becomes available.

### The Fine Print

- You are not requesting a grade of “pass”; rather, you are requesting to be graded through a “pass/fail” structure as opposed to a traditional letter grade.
- The May 28, 2020 deadline allows students the opportunity to see their traditional letter grade in a course **before** choosing between the traditional letter grade or a “pass/fail” structure.
- Students are always encouraged to speak with their academic advisors, instructors, program coordinators, and/or Associate Deans before making any decisions about their grading preferences.



If students choose to be graded through a “pass/fail” structure for a course, they must submit a “Special Request for Grade Change” form to their instructor before 11:59 p.m. on May 28, 2020. The form can be found on the website at <http://www.hccc.edu/forms>