COVID-19 Academic Policy Revisions (updated June 2020)

Drew University has made the following revisions to its academic policy in Spring 2020 (1) to maintain equity among students in their ability to continue to make progress in their degree programs and minimize consequences to students facing unprecedented challenges, and (2) to promote additional flexibility in course design and implementation as instructors move to online instruction during this time of great stress and upheaval.

The Policy, first instituted for Spring 2020 courses, has been extended and may now be applied to Summer 2020 courses (sessions 1 and 2).

Optional Pass/Low Pass/Unsatisfactory Grading for Undergraduate Students

Students may elect to switch some or all of their summer 2020 courses to P/LP/U. The deadline to switch summer 2020 courses to P/LP/U is Wednesday, August 19. Summer students will be able to see their final grade in a class and THEN opt to change their grade to the Pass/Low Pass/Unsatisfactory (P/LP/U) option.

Students are encouraged to consult with their adviser(s) and instructors prior to electing P/LP/U and to READ THE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER SECTION BELOW BEFORE MAKING THE GRADE CHANGE.

Pass/Low Pass/Unsatisfactory (P/LP/U) grades:

● Students earning the equivalent of a “C-” or better will be awarded a grade of “P” (pass); students earning the equivalent of a “D-/D/D+” will be awarded a grade of “LP” (low pass); both P/LP will result in students earning credits for those courses.
● Students failing a course will receive a grade of “U” (unsatisfactory) and will earn no credits.
● Courses completed with P/LP/U are not included in any grade point average (GPA) calculations. (This is different from a traditional Pass/Fail grade option where a F grade is included in GPA calculations).
● For the spring and summer 2020 semesters, credits earned with a “P” or “LP” grade will count toward:
  ○ 128 total credits required for graduation;
  ○ intermediate and upper-level credit requirements;
  ○ major requirements (except for cases when a “C- or better grade” is required for the major, then only courses completed with a grade of “P” will count toward the major);
  ○ general education requirements.
A grade of “LP” differs from “P” in that it signifies that a student has not met a minimum C- proficiency, which is sometimes needed for progression through a sequence of courses in particular majors.

Spring and Summer 2020 Exceptions to Academic Policy

The University has approved exceptions to several academic policies and procedures, including:

1. There is no limit on the numbers of spring and summer 2020 courses/credits allowed to be taken P/LP/U, and these courses do not contribute to the 20 credit limit for P/F courses.
2. Courses applied to the major or minor and courses used to meet general education requirements may (in spring and summer 2020) be taken on a P/LP/U basis (see recommended exceptions below).
3. Students may convert a course to P/LP/U even if they have previously taken the same course for a regular grade, including under Drew’s Grade Forgiveness policy.

Important Considerations for P/LP/U:

- Summer Students may elect to switch to P/LP/U up until Wednesday, August 19. Please consult with your adviser prior to making this decision.

- **ELECTING TO SWITCH A COURSE TO P/LP/U MAY NOT BE ADVISABLE IF:**
  - You need to raise your GPA for academic warning or probationary requirements, into pathway GPA requirements, or to raise your GPA above the 2.0 threshold for graduation;
  - A course is required for a post-graduate professional program (e.g., medical school), as it is unclear how these programs will view this grading scheme for spring and summer 2020. Currently, P/F grades are frequently not allowed for admission to many professional programs;
  - A course is required for transfer to Drew’s MAT program since these courses require a grade of B or better;
  - A course is required for a combined degree program (e.g., 3+2 engineering).

- The University has approved the addition of a semester-level comment to the official Drew University academic transcript stating, “Spring/Summer grading allowed this term to adjust for university-wide emergency distance learning. P - Pass, LP - Low Pass, U - Unsatisfactory.” (See image below for mockup.)
There are no expected immigration-related impacts on international students who elect to switch their courses to P/LP/U.

Students should use the following link (P/LP/U Grading Opt In Form) to submit an online form for requesting to switch course(s) to P/LP/U grading option. All requests will be automatically approved. Please consult with your adviser and instructor, and remember that you have until Wednesday, August 19 to submit this form for Summer courses.

Reasons to stay with the letter grade option:
- You are doing well in the course and expect to continue to do well.
- Your expected course grade will raise your GPA or be consistent with your current GPA.
- You need to raise your GPA for academic warning or probationary requirements.
- You are an INTO pathway student and need to meet GPA requirements, or to raise your GPA above the 2.0 threshold for graduation.
- A course is required for a post-graduate professional program (e.g., medical school) as it is unclear how these programs will view this grading scheme for Spring 2020. Currently, a grade of P is frequently not allowed for many professional programs.
- A course is required for a combined degree program (e.g., 3+2 engineering).

Reasons to switch to the P/LP/U grade option:
- The shift to remote teaching and learning causes you to fear you would not perform as well as you would have in the regular format.
- The shift to remote teaching and learning has resulted in you needing to focus on some classes more than others (elect the P/LP/U in the class for which you must have a diminished focus).
- You feel you are underperforming and are concerned about lowering your GPA.
- To help provide relief from a course load for an elective.
- International students facing time in quarantine when they return home.
- You have impediments to remote learning, such as inconsistent access to the internet.
- It is ok to maintain your current GPA (it is not necessary for you to raise it).

CLA Transfer Credit Policy Exception
Many colleges and universities, including Drew University, are making some variation of pass/fail grades available to students in response to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given this situation, Drew University has approved an exception to our transfer credit policy and will allow for the transfer of pass/fail courses taken during spring and summer 2020.
Exception: Pass/fail courses taken during spring and summer 2020 with a grade of P, or the equivalent, will be accepted for transfer credits and can be used to satisfy general education and major requirements.

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**Optional Pass/Unsatisfactory Grading for Graduate Students**

Most* graduate students may elect to switch some or all of their spring 2020 and summer 2020 courses to P/U. The deadline to switch summer 2020 courses to P/U is Wednesday, August 19. You will be able to see your final grade in a class and THEN you will still have a few days to opt to change your grade to the Pass/Unsatisfactory (P/U) option.

Students are encouraged to consult with their adviser(s) prior to electing P/U.

*Exceptions: For reasons of licensure, this policy does not apply to Doctor of Ministry students or Master of Arts in Teaching students. DMin students with concerns, should contact Meredith Hoxie Schol, mhoxieschol@drew.edu. MAT students with concerns, should contact Kristen Turner, kturner3@drew.edu.

**Pass/Unsatisfactory (P/U) grades**

- Students earning the equivalent of a “C-” or better will be awarded a grade of “P” (pass); students earning below C- for a course will receive a grade of “U” (unsatisfactory) and will earn no credits.
- Courses completed with this grading mode are not included in any grade point average (GPA) calculations.
- For the spring and summer 2020 semesters, credits earned with a “P” grade will count toward:
  - Total program credits required for graduation
  - Course requirements
  - Elective courses
- Courses receiving a U grade will not count toward the degree and will not adversely affect the GPA.

**Spring and Summer 2020 Exceptions to Academic Policy**

The University has approved exceptions to several graduate academic policies and procedures, including:
1. There is no limit on the numbers of spring and summer 2020 courses/credits allowed to be taken P/U.
2. Courses graded P/U may satisfy requirements.
3. Students on Academic Warning or Probation may elect to take their courses P/U.

Important Considerations for P/U:

- Summer Students may elect to switch to P/U up until Wednesday, August 19. Please consult with your adviser prior to making this decision.
- Electing to switch a course to P/U MAY NOT be advisable if:
  - The student needs to raise the GPA for academic warning or probationary requirements or to raise the GPA above a certain threshold for graduation or moving forward in a degree;
  - Transcripts or courses with letter grades are required for a post-graduate professional program or certification (e.g., doctoral applications; professional certifications; ordination requirements)
- The University has approved the addition of a semester-level comment to the official Drew University academic transcript stating “Spring grading allowed this term to adjust for university-wide emergency distance learning. P - Pass, U - Unsatisfactory.”
- There are no expected immigration-related impacts on international students who elect to switch their courses to P/U.

Students should use the following link to submit an online form for requesting to switch summer course(s) to P/U grading option. All requests will be automatically approved. Please consult with your adviser and instructor, and remember that you have until Wednesday, August 19 to submit this form for Summer courses.

P/U Grading Opt In Form