Ramapo College of New Jersey

Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grading Option for Undergraduate & Graduate Students

Dr. Susan Gaulden, Interim Provost / Vice President for Academic Affairs
The COVID-19 Global Pandemic has caused major disruption to the Spring 2020 semester.

To accommodate the needs of **undergraduate & graduate students** who have been substantively impacted by the transition to remote learning and/or who have experienced other challenges caused by the Coronavirus, Ramapo College is offering a **pass/fail grading** option for this semester, **Spring 2020**.
You can

• still choose to **withdraw** from your Spring 2020 class* (academic calendar deadline 04/13/2020: https://www.ramapo.edu/academic-calendars/) as per the normal procedure;

• take no action and **earn letter grades** as usual for your Spring 2020 classes; or

• opt into **pass/fail (P/F) grading** for one or more of your eligible Spring 2020 classes (between 04/10/2020 and 05/26/2020 at 11:59 PM).

* excludes accelerated 2 classes
Which students may benefit from opting into P/F grading?

Undergraduate & graduate students who

- fell ill or had to provide care for someone who contracted the virus;
- experienced significant difficulties transitioning to remote learning;
- are over-burdened by changes in day-to-day activities;
- feel that pass/fail grading may help decrease their stress levels;
- have been doing well academically at Ramapo College and are concerned that this semester could hurt their academic standing.

may benefit by opting into P/F grading for one or more of their eligible Spring 2020 classes.
Important Considerations

**PLEASE** consult with your
– professors
– advisers
– school Dean

**before** deciding to opt into P/F grading for one or more of your eligible Spring 2020 classes.

**Be Aware:** Choosing P/F grading can impact your academic status, academic progress, eligibility for financial aid & scholarships, and more.
Which Spring 2020 classes are eligible for P/F grading?

The following classes are eligible for P/F grading this semester:

- *most* undergraduate- & graduate-level classes*
  - accelerated 1 classes, which ended on 03/13/2020, are excluded
  - NURS (nursing) classes are excluded

- undergraduate classes required for Gen Ed, school core, major & minor (i.e., not just free-elective courses)

- graduate classes required by the degree program (i.e., not just elective & thesis courses)
What are P/F grades & how do they affect GPAs and financial aid awards?

Professors will still assign letter grades to all students. Grades will be automatically converted to P or F in the classes for which students opt into P/F grading as follows:

- Undergraduate-level classes:
  grade of D or higher = P (pass)  grade of F = F (fail)

- Graduate-level classes:
  grade of C− or higher = P (pass)  grade of F = F (fail)

A P does not affect the GPA, but an F has the same impact it usually does (0 grade points per credit, counted into GPA hours). {Try our GPA calculator: https://www.ramapo.edu/myadvisor/gpa-calculator/}

Opting into P/F grading will not impact students who currently have financial aid awards as long as the courses/credits completed count toward fulfilling degree requirements and as long as they make satisfactory academic progress.
Which students cannot or may not want to opt into Spring 2020 P/F grading?

⚠️ Undergraduate and graduate Nursing students cannot opt into P/F grading for NURS (Nursing) classes.

⚠️ Students who do very well academically may need to ensure they achieve or maintain a specific GPA:

- Ramapo Honors Program students need to maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Scholarships may require a minimum GPA
- Spring 2020 Deans List requires a 3.5 or higher semester GPA, a 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA, completion of a minimum of 12 credits (not including P grades), and no incomplete grades
- Graduation with Distinction (“Latin Honors”) requires students to complete 64 or more credits (not including P grades) and earn cumulative GPAs as follows:
  - 3.500-3.699 cum laude
  - 3.700-3.849 magna cum laude
  - 3.850-4.000 summa cum laude
Which students *cannot* or *may not want* to opt into Spring 2020 P/F grading? (continued)

⚠️ **Students who want to or who must improve their academic performance** may be working to increase their GPAs. These students *should* consult with their advisers before making any decisions to opt into P/F grading for one or more Spring 2020 classes.

- Students who are working to improve their GPA to meet external requirements (e.g., Teacher Ed majors must have a 3.0 or higher GPA, to meet scholarship or Honors Program minimum GPA requirements) will not be able to improve their GPA if they opt into P/F grading for all of their Spring 2020 classes.

- Students on academic warning, academic probation, or continued probation will not be able to improve their academic status if they opt into P/F grading for all of their Spring 2020 classes.

- **Student-athletes** who are not in good academic standing and must improve their GPA to be eligible to participate in their sports will not be able to do so if they opt into P/F grading for all of their Spring 2020 classes.
Which students cannot or may not want to opt into Spring 2020 P/F grading? (continued)

Students who completed accelerated 1 classes by March 13, 2020 cannot opt into P/F grading for these completed classes.

Students who are repeating a course may not want to opt into P/F grading for the repeated course, as it will only be able to improve their GPA if they are using one of their RF options.

Students pursuing articulated programs (e.g., dentistry, Drawing & Painting with Art Therapy, Physical Therapy) or who plan to transfer to another institution should check to see if P/F grades will transfer and count in their program at the other college/university.
Which students cannot or may not want to opt into Spring 2020 P/F grading? (continued)

A student who expects to earn a D grade in a class and, therefore, opts into P/F grading may face the following issues:

- If the course is a prerequisite that requires a particular grade to move on to a subsequent course or to be accepted into an academic program*, then the student must earn the required letter grade even if it is automatically converted to a P. The student can still opt into P/F grading but should be aware that they will have to repeat the prerequisite course if the required letter grade is not earned. (For example, since CMPS 148 requires as a prerequisite a grade of C or higher in CMPS 147, a student who opts into P/F grading and earns a D, which will automatically convert to a P, will still have to retake CMPS 147 before enrolling in CMPS 148.)

- If the course provides foundational content for other courses needed for the major, the student may not acquire an adequate knowledge base to be successful in the subsequent courses.

* Course descriptions, which include prerequisite information can be found via https://www.ramapo.edu/web-resources/.
Other Important Considerations

**Before** deciding to opt into P/F grading for one or more Spring 2020 class, students should consider the following:

- Opting into P/F grading for eligible classes will be allowed from 04/10/2020 until 05/26/2020 at 11:59 pm, which is **one week after letter grades are viewable**. There is **no rush to make a decision** right now, and there is plenty of time to consult with professors, advisers, and school Deans!

- P/F grades *may* influence how **graduate schools** (especially **medicine & law schools**) and **employers** view students’ transcripts even though a note will be included on all Ramapo College transcripts to indicate the disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020.
Students,

Please take your time to make this very important academic decision. Try out our GPA calculator at https://www.ramapo.edu/myadvisor/gpa-calculator.

Consult with your professors, advisers (available through Connect), and/or school Dean. A list of contact information for individuals who can provide guidance is provided on the next two slides for your convenience.

We are here to assist you and provide academic support and advisement as needed!

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Gaulden
Interim Provost
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<tr>
<th>School / Program</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
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Students can identify their **advisers** by accessing their Network in Connect. If they need assistance, they can contact the Center for Student Success at success@ramapo.edu.
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<tr>
<th>Program / Unit</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
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<tbody>
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Students can identify their **advisers** by accessing their Network in Connect ➔ please go to [https://www.ramapo.edu/connect/students/](https://www.ramapo.edu/connect/students/) for more details.


Students who have **general questions** related to changes in College Operations due to the global pandemic can contact communications@ramapo.edu or visit the webpage [https://www.ramapo.edu/health/coronavirus-covid-19/#s3](https://www.ramapo.edu/health/coronavirus-covid-19/#s3).
Please note:

An email explaining the details of how to opt into P/F grading for eligible Spring 2020 classes will be sent to all students no later than April 10, 2020.

Please be sure to check your @ramapo.edu emails on a regular basis.

Be safe, be well, and know that you are missed!