

## Graduate Students—

As you are aware, due to our institution's response to COVID-19, the Graduate School will be offering graduate students an opportunity to select a PASS/FAIL grading option for some or all of their Winter Semester 2020 graduate courses. We do not presently offer this option to graduate students in our policy document. This is a one-time, one-semester exception, available to all graduate students enrolled in Winter Semester 2020 courses.

To make a well-informed decision when considering the pass/fail option, we ask students to first understand these things:

- The pass/fail option results in either an “S” grade (Pass) or a “U” grade (Fail).
- The S grade will be assigned when the student's earned course grade is A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, or C-.
- The pass/fail grade does not provide quality points and thus does not count toward the number of attempted hours in calculating the GPA. As such, it does not impact the student's cumulative graduate GPA. An S grade does not increase the GPA; a U grade does not decrease the GPA.
- The student should understand whether the pass/fail option is a good choice for completing their program's degree requirements. Will the academic program accept/recognize a grade of Pass? Does the program require minimum letter grades in certain course for completing the degree?
- For the student whose admissions status is currently **Condition 1**, the student should be aware of the academic program's requirements/expectations for removing the Condition.
- For the student whose admissions status is currently **Condition 4 (Low Undergraduate GPA) or Condition 5 (Pathways/Fresh Start)**, the student's admissions status will be reviewed after the first 9 hours of courses for which they received a letter grade (A-C-, F). Courses in which the student selected the pass/fail option will not be included in the accounting of the first 9 credit hours.
- The student who is **repeating a course** for which they have already earned a grade of C- or higher should **not** choose the pass/fail option; the student will not be able to improve the letter grade from the previous attempt. The student will need to petition to repeat the course in a subsequent semester. However, if the previous grade in a repeated course was a failing grade, a Pass grade will replace the failing grade.
- No matter when a student **applies for graduation**, the student's cumulative GPA for graduate-level courses taken at EMU, and in their program of study, **must be greater than or equal to 3.0. This policy will not change, even if the pass/fail grading option was used for one or more courses.**
- Incompletes or In Progress grades from previous semesters may not be converted to pass/fail.
- The student whose academic standing is currently **Probation 2** or who has been reinstated after dismissal will be individually assessed. Several criteria will be used to determine program status and program recommendation will be sought.
- Students should be advised to consider their academic goals. Some graduate schools and professional schools may prejudice an applicant who has a transcript that contains many courses scored with a pass/fail option.
- The student should consult with the Financial Aid Office, Veterans Affairs, the Office of International Students and Scholars, Student Athletic Support Services, and the GA policy document on how a pass/fail decision will impact their ability to receive resources and aid.

We wish you every success in your academic endeavors.

The Graduate School