

Guidance from Colleges and Universities Outside California Related to the COVID-19 Crisis

**Please note: This is not a comprehensive list of schools. If you need information from a specific college/university that is not listed here, please contact them directly via email or search their website for their statements in regard to this matter. We will continue to update our list as more information becomes available.*



At this point, nothing will be affected on our end so long as the student still graduates with the courses they reported when they applied. GPA does not affect admission from their final semester.



Your admission will not be impacted if your school has transitioned to a pass/fail grading system and passing courses will still be used to satisfy ABOR Course Competencies.



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

As for Ball State, we are going to do what is in the best interest of the student. If the school decides to use their GPA before pass/fail as their final GPA we will accept that. There will be no changes to already admitted student's admissions statuses if they have moved to a pass/fail for their last semester. Please know that we will look at the most up-to-date GPA as an admissions indicator for our future students and all students still must complete the core of 4 years of English, 3 years of Math (Alg I, Alg II, Geometry), 3 years of Social

Studies/Science, 3 years of Hard Science. As long as the student has completed and earned credits, we will accept that but we still use the most up-to-date GPA on record when reviewing a student for admission.



**BOISE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

For admitted seniors this shouldn't impact their current admission status or scholarship offer at Boise State. Regardless of if districts decide to give letter grades or move to P/F (credit/no credit) students should simply meet high school graduation requirements. Unless a student is no longer graduating high school due to failing grades (which makes them ineligible for admission), their current admission status and scholarship offer would remain unchanged.



Boston College will remain as flexible as possible regarding coursework this year. Students whose school districts have moved to a pass/fail model (P/F), or students who have opted for this option due to the unexpected impacts of COVID-19 will not be penalized.



Our office certainly understands that many schools around the country will have to adopt a credit/no credit system for spring 2020 classes and we in no way will hold this decision against applicants in future admissions cycles. Your students will not be negatively impacted in the admission process next year or in the future.



We recognize that school transcripts will look different for many students this year, and we will work with that! Academic progress as usual is currently being disrupted for students across

the globe. We encourage students to continue to engage with whatever method of learning your school is able to offer, and to do so to the best of your ability. If your school moves to an alternative grading system or method of credit notation (pass/fail, credit/no credit, etc.), we will fully understand why the change has been made and it will not, in any way, be an issue for an admissions office. If a high school closes and does not provide any online or structured replacement educational opportunities, rest assured that we will understand that as well (this is a good opportunity to read something new that piques your interest!).



Please be assured that Columbia Undergraduate Admissions fully supports the pedagogical and administrative decisions your school may make in order to assist your community through this crisis. For example, pass/fail marks or alternative grading

methods in lieu of letter or numerical grades this spring will be accommodated when we review applicants' transcripts next year and beyond. We all have plenty of obstacles to navigate in the months ahead, and preparing paperwork for your college-bound students should be the least of your concerns.



DARTMOUTH

We will always accommodate whatever grading system a student has experienced, as most often, it is not their choice. Dartmouth has not issued an "official" statement, but how a student is graded will not have a negative bearing on their chances of admittance. We look at every student holistically and do our best to evaluate how they have excelled and taken advantage in context of the opportunities they have been given.



Using a credit/no credit system will not hurt your students in our case.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

If your school has decided to change their normal grading system this year to reflect Pass/Fail grades, we completely understand this decision. At FSU, we offered a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option to our own students enrolled in the Spring term. Pass/Fail grades **will not** negatively impact your admission status as long as you pass!

For all other students enrolled in high school, Pass/Fail grades will not negatively impact your ability to be considered for admission in 2021 and beyond.



Colleges Expect Variance. *I don't know* how your high school is currently teaching your courses. *I DO know* it varies widely across our nation and the world. We've heard some schools may only issue pass/fail grades for this spring. Others are saying they plan to simplify their grading scales for this term or may

compress certain subjects into summer courses (assuming they are back in school by June). Undoubtedly, a lot of nuance and diversity. This should not concern you, or make you fearful that you'll be at a disadvantage. First, *everyone* is dealing with this unprecedented new reality and continually adjusting to unfamiliar territory. Second, admission folks are used to seeing varying curriculum, grading scales, and delivery methods. They are trained to ask questions and dig deeply into your transcript. Holistic review means they are not putting your GPA into a spreadsheet and multiplying by some quotient. They don't expect uniformity. And given the global impact of Coronavirus, you should expect a lot of grace from colleges in the weeks, months, and year to come. Colleges train readers and committees to consider your course choice and progression. Their assessment of your academic career in high school is never purely numerical or black and white. Their biggest question is always what could you have taken and what you chose to take during high school. In that sense, nothing has changed.



GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY™

GCU will work with the student to possibly wait test scores and lower high school GPA requirements due to COVID-19, if they are eligible.



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

Spring Semester Grades: We know that many students will only be able to present pass/fail grades or other similar marks on their transcripts this spring. They will not be disadvantaged as a result.

Whole Person Review: We will continue to look at the whole person as we consider applications next year – as always. Accomplishments in and out of the classroom during the high school years - including community involvement, employment, and help given to your family – will all be considered. Students who find themselves limited in the activities they can pursue due to the current coronavirus outbreak will not be disadvantaged as a result.



HOFSTRA
UNIVERSITY

We do understand that schools are moving to a credit/no credit grading system. We will be reviewing each applicant by a case by case basis.



**University
of Idaho**

Incoming students just need to submit a transcript like they normally would. The P/F that will be reflected and the cumulative GPA will only be affected if the student fails a class, but if not, the GPA will not be affected.



At this time, our office is still in discussion about how a pass/fail grading system might affect our admissions process... We would never hold a pass/fail system against a student in the admissions process, and it likely will not have any negative impact on admitted students as long as they pass their required/core classes.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

In recent days, we have received more questions from prospective students worried about disruptions to other aspects of their education, including grading policies, extracurricular activities, and so on. I'm writing to reaffirm that, [consistent with our longstanding practice](#), we will not penalize students for factors outside their control, including

changes to grading policies and procedures, cancellations of activities and exams, and more, because of COVID or any other disaster or disruption. We always strive to evaluate applicants fairly in their context, *especially* in times like these.



As long as you meet your state's educational requirements and receive your diploma, your admission status will not be affected.



We understand these times are difficult all across the country, we will not have any issues with pass/fail courses as long as the student is still completing their high school graduation requirements accordingly.



Yes, Northern Arizona University is prepared to accept Pass/Fail grades for the current semester, as we realize many students have no control over this. I don't think we have a published statement about this, but our Director of Admissions has shared that the university is ready to accept pass/fail grades for current and future applicants.



Northwestern
University

We understand that many communities are experiencing school closures or restricted activities. We are committed to working with schools and communities to ensure all candidates receive full consideration for Northwestern's incoming classes.



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Our office has received several questions about our stance on schools moving to pass/fail in the last grading period. We support a school's decision to exercise this option and would ask that you include a notation on the transcript or in the school profile that you used P/F in a grading period.



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

If you are worried that we will treat you differently based on your school being closed, giving P/F grades, or otherwise taking unusual steps, don't be.



No official change in policy has been announced. However, we already receive a small number of transcripts from students who have P/F grades for some or all of their coursework, so this wouldn't be totally uncharted territory. Each applicant will be looked at on an individual and holistic basis, but we fully understand the unique and unprecedented times we are in and wouldn't hold something against a student that was out of their control.



My high school is going pass/fail. Is that OK? Whatever your school does, we'll support it. If you have only P/F in the second semester, we'll totally understand. It might mean we put a bit more emphasis on your first semester, but we'll also completely understand your circumstances. If you're currently on an upward trend, we'll

make the assumption that that trend would have continued in the second semester. We'll give you the benefit of the doubt in every single way we can. Tulane just announced that students can opt to take their classes Pass, Minimal Pass, Or Fail, so we get it. Go to your online classes, do the best you can, make your presence felt, try your hardest. We'll notice, trust me.



We are working with all students who receive Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades (or their equivalent). Courses completed in spring 2020 with Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades (or their equivalent) will satisfy appropriate letter grade requirements. Additionally, courses completed in spring 2020 with P or CR grades will be recognized and totaled as part of the 30 completed credit hours for transfer students.



Context matters. There's no doubt that high school transcripts for this year's and future year's applicants will look different. There will be pass/fail grades where there once were As and Bs. There will be tests untaken, chances to improve foregone, and letters of recommendation truncated. But as it always has been at Vanderbilt,

context dictates how we read files. And in unprecedented times, context will take on unprecedented importance. You have our pledge that as this crisis evolves, so too will our use of context in the admissions process. But it will never relinquish its central place in our evaluation of the files of your students. Holism has, and will remain, the byword of our admissions process.



During these unprecedented times, Villanova University is fully aware of how curriculum is being impacted. For example, Villanova is offering current students the ability to take classes with grades of satisfactory/unsatisfactory this semester.

Any shifts to your grading scale over this period of time will be considered in our review transcripts. We are mindful of all the adjustments that have been made in response to our current global climate, and you will not be penalized for any changes made outside of your control.



If a school changes the grading scale to Pass/No Pass or Credit/No Credit this will not impact a student's admission to University of Washington. Educators, if your school is able, please designate the change on the transcript so the Office of Admissions is aware when reviewing final transcripts.

Yale University



Just as secondary schools take a diverse set of approaches to curricula and assessment during normal times, schools are taking a diverse set of approaches when responding to the outbreak. We expect that many transcripts will look different for at least the spring 2020 semester. Regardless of your school's decisions, we will work

to understand your school's unique context and will not penalize students whose transcripts lack letter grades. It may be helpful to know that Yale does not recalculate or re-weight grade point averages to a uniform scale. We also recognize that many students' personal circumstances may make it especially difficult to achieve at their typical academic level during this time. These considerations will also be part of our committee's whole-person review.