Subject: FW: From the Provost: Pass/Fail Grading

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 at 2:58:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: UofL Update,Service Account

To: Peter,Amber Dunlap

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Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 12:53 PM
To: UofL Update,Service Account <ulupdate@louisville.edu>
Subject: From the Provost: Pass/Fail Grading

Dear Students,

As I wrote to you last week, the university is allowing you to switch any course you are taking this semester from letter grading to Pass/Fail grading.   We understand that the coronavirus is creating extraordinary conditions for some of you and want to make it easier for you to finish the courses in which you are enrolled. But please remember, this policy applies only to Spring 2020 courses due to end after Spring Break: it doesn't apply to previous semesters, future semesters or half-term courses that have already ended.

We have used this week to design a process that is as painless as possible and entirely self-service (that is, you control the process for each of the courses you're currently enrolled in). You will need to log into ULink with your UofL credentials, and under the Student Services tab, find the menu box for "Registration." The first link will take you to the page where you can select Pass/Fail grading for any of your courses. Click on this link, and you will see a list of every course you are enrolled in this semester that has not yet concluded. If you wish to switch any course to Pass/Fail, click on the box next to the name of the course. You may do this for any number of courses this semester. You may also leave any or all your courses as receiving a letter grade, and if you do nothing, all your courses will follow the grading type you selected at the beginning of the semester.

The option to change grading type will be open until the date listed next to the course. You may change your mind as many times as you would like until that final date, at which point you will need to finalize your choices and will not be able to switch again. The instructor will not be able to see that you have elected a P/F option. He or she will enter the grade, and it will automatically convert to a P if you earned a D- or better. Fs will count as Fs.

I encourage you to make careful decisions about whether to switch to Pass/Fail. Although your professor will not know which grading option you finally choose, you should ask your professor for specific feedback about your progress in the course to date as well as specific requirements for passing the course before making a final decision. Some courses require that you take the final in order to pass, whether you have accumulated enough points to pass or not: make sure you ask if it is not on your syllabus. You should also speak to an advisor about the decision, especially if you have concerns regarding academic standing, financial aid, or other academic issues that might make the letter grade a better choice. You should also think carefully about taking letter grades vs. Pass/Fail if you are planning to apply to graduate or professional school.

Remember that a P gives you credit for the course but does not affect your GPA in any way. An F, on the other hand, will be entered into and lower your GPA. Make sure you are clear about each of your instructors' expectations for finishing the semester online (don't ghost on your classes and expect a P if you haven't done any work since Spring Break). The Pass/Fail option should be seen as an opportunity to complete your semester with less stress about grades; it is not a license to stop participating in the course.

As always, we are doing our best to make sure that you can finish the semester in the strongest possible way and not be overly concerned that the disruption of COVID-19 will poorly impact your record. We ask that you do your best to work hard, communicate often, reach out for help if you need it, and stay healthy.

Beth A. Boehm
Executive Vice President and University Provost