COVID-19 Academic Options

MSC Southeast recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives, and also made a major impact on the spring semester. Our goal is to provide flexibility and options for students as they complete the term.

Pass/No Credit Grading Option

Courses are normally assigned grades of A, B, C, D, or F. During the Spring 2020 semester, students may choose the Pass/No credit (P/NC) grading option instead. A “Pass” indicates a C or better grade, and “No Credit” would be assigned in place of a D or F.

Is this the right option for you?

- **Pass/No Credit grades are not calculated into GPA**, so it is an alternate way to keep making academic progress. If the stress of COVID-19 or shifting to the online format has been challenging for you and you are unsure if you should withdraw from a course or stay enrolled, this may be a good option.
- **You can decide your grade option for each course**, so you can allow for traditional grades in some courses and P/NC in others.
- **Is it possible you will get a D?** If so, you may want to stay in the course and keep it for a letter grade. A course with a D grade will meet a requirement for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) and many degree requirements. However, if you earn a D, with the P/NC option a grade of NC will be given which will not result in credits earned or requirements met.

Other considerations:

- **It may impact future admissions into transfer or graduate institutions.** Many colleges and universities are offering students this option this spring, so though it is our hope that there will be flexibility in the future, we don’t know how P/NC grades will impact future admission into competitive programs.
- **Students who receive VA Education Benefits** should consult MSC Southeast VA Certifying Official Pam Zimmerman before changing to Pass/No Credit, as this grade option can impact benefits.

How does it work?

- **The deadline to make this change is May 8, 2020.**
- **Students:** Initiate the grade method change in eServices in the “View/Modify Schedule” section of “Courses & Registration”.
- **Faculty** in your A-F graded courses will continue to grade you on an A-F scale, unless you choose the P/NC option.
Extended Withdrawal Deadline

The system policy that set the last day for students to withdraw from a course at the 80% point has been extended to the 90% point of the course for spring semester. The last day to withdraw from full term courses is May 4, 2020. For courses that are not the full semester, withdrawal dates can be found on the course schedule and in eServices. Extending the withdrawal deadline gives students more time to decide if they can complete the course.

Is this the right option for you?

- A “W” grade is not factored into your GPA. If you do not believe it will be possible to successfully complete a course, a withdrawal is likely your best option. You will not need to return any financial aid at this point, and it may allow you to focus on your other courses.

Other considerations:

- A Withdrawal (W) will factor in to your course completion rate when we calculate Satisfactory Academic Progress, which requires that you complete at least two-thirds of the total credits you attempt.
- A Withdrawal (W) may factor into your student loan status. In order to remain in in-school status (and not repayment status), students must be enrolled for at least 6 credits. Withdrawn courses are considered not-enrolled and may change this status.
- You will not earn credit from withdrawn courses and there is no refund.

How Does It Work?

- Students can withdraw in eServices (and get a grade of W) in the “View/Modify Schedule” section of “Courses & Registration” until 90% of the course is completed.

Questions?

For questions regarding individual course grades, contact your instructor.

For questions regarding academic progress, contact Student Services: registrar@southeastmn.edu or 877.853.8324.