

Call to Action for US Medical Schools

Regarding Undergraduate Courses Taken During the Spring 2020 Semester

During the Spring 2020 semester, COVID-19 arrived and began to spread rapidly across the United States. Within weeks, college and universities campuses were closed, with instruction shifting to an online format. Concerns immediately arose about the disproportionate impact the new teaching format would impose due to differences in home environments, access to digital technologies, internet connectivity, and loss of in-person support services (help rooms, one-on-one office hours, counseling, advising, etc.). In addition, some courses clearly lend themselves to an online format better than others. All of these changes led to high stress levels among students and faculty.

In response, colleges and universities across the United States have adopted a wide variety of grading policies regarding the spring 2020 semester. They basically fall into three categories: 1) no changes – all courses graded; 2) all courses graded on a pass/no credit (P/NC) basis; and 3) students may choose to take some or all of their courses P/NC or opt for a grade. The stress level among pre-medical students remains high given the previously stated policies of medical school admissions offices that courses must be taken for credit with a letter grade.

A number of medical schools have already announced they will accept P/NC grades during the spring 2020 semester from students applying to medical school in the future. See Appendix A for the list of these schools. We applaud these medical schools for recognizing and acting on the extraordinary circumstances our undergraduate students are facing.

A variant announced by a few medical schools causes us concern. These schools have stated that they will accept P/NC courses provided it is the policy of the student's undergraduate institution to only award P/NC grades without a graded option. This variant has created undue stress among undergraduates, with a disproportionate impact on our low income and underrepresented minority students.

We call on all medical schools to adopt a policy of accepting P/NC grades for courses taken during the Spring 2020 semester regardless of the grading policy established by students' undergraduate institutions.

Text above was fixed on 1 April 2020. Signatories below are increasing over time. If you would like to become a signatory, or your medical school would like to be listed in Appendix A, please send an email to: provost@nd.edu

Signed by:

Jay Akridge, Provost, Purdue University
Melissa Baumann, Provost, Xavier University
David Blackwell, Provost, University of Kentucky
M. Brian Blake, Provost, George Washington University
Bob Blouin, University of North Carolina
Beth A. Boehm, Provost, University of Louisville
Frederick Bonato, Provost, Saint Peter's University
Nancy Brickhouse, Provost, Baylor University
Thomas Burish, Provost, University of Notre Dame
Maria Calzada, Interim Provost, Loyola University New Orleans
Andreas C. Cangellaris, Provost, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Cyril R. Clarke, Provost, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech)
Marion Crain, Interim Provost, Washington University in Saint Louis
Rachel Croson, Provost, University of Minnesota
Ann E. Cudd, Provost, University of Pittsburgh
Reginald DesRoches, Provost-Elect, Rice University
Richard DiCarlo, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Institutional Affairs, LSUHSC
School of Medicine at New Orleans
Jeffrey Duerk, Provost, University of Miami
Patrick Farrell, Provost, Lehigh University
Carol A. Fierke, Provost, Texas A&M University
Margaret N. Freije, Provost, College of the Holy Cross
James H. Garrett, Provost, Carnegie Mellon University
Chester Gillis, Interim Provost, Saint Louis University
Jeff Gingerich, Provost, University of Scranton
Deena González, Provost, Gonzaga University
Robert Groves, Provost, Georgetown University
Kathleen Hagerty, Interim Provost, Northwestern University
Joseph J. Helble, Provost, Dartmouth College
Steven T. Herbert, Provost, John Carroll University
Ralph Hexter, Provost, University of California, Davis
James Holloway, Provost, University of New Mexico
Dennis C. Jacobs, Provost, Fordham University
Nicholas P. Jones, Provost, Pennsylvania State University
Robert H. Jones, Provost, Clemson University
Rogan Kersh, Provost, Wake Forest University
Joseph L. Klesner, Provost, Kenyon College
Lori Kletzer, Interim Provost, University of California Santa Cruz
Lisa A. Kloppenberg, Provost, Santa Clara University

Sally Kornbluth, Provost, Duke University
Sunil Kumar, Provost, Johns Hopkins University
Zhanjiang Liu, Interim Provost, Syracuse University
Jan Love, Interim Provost, Emory University
Lisa M. Lynch, Provost, Brandeis University
Elizabeth Magill, Provost, University of Virginia
Marc Manganaro, Provost, Spring Hill College
Joseph G. Marina, Provost, Le Moyne College
David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor, University of California, Santa Barbara
Shane P. Martin, Provost, Seattle University
Seiichi Matsuda, Interim Provost, Rice University
Cheryl McConnell, Provost, Saint Joseph's University
Elizabeth McCormack, Dean for Academic Affairs, Bowdoin College
Maurie McInnis, Provost, University of Texas, Austin
Bruce A. McPheron, Provost, Ohio State University
Marie Lynn Miranda, Provost-Elect, University of Notre Dame
Sara R Morris, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Canisius College
Jean Morrison, Boston University
Carl O. Moses, Provost, Grand View University
Thomas F. Murray, Provost, Creighton University
David Quigley, Provost, Boston College
Latha Ramchand, Provost, University of Missouri
Daniel A. Reed, Provost, University of Utah
Martin Schmidt, Provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
John Karl Scholz, Provost, University of Wisconsin – Madison
David R. Shaw, Provost, Mississippi State University
Christine Siegel, Provost, Fairfield University
Richard Stamper, Provost, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Hal Stern, Interim Provost, UC Irvine
Scott Strobel, Provost, Yale University
Teresa Sullivan, Interim Provost, Michigan State University
Amanda M. Thomas, Provost, Loyola University Maryland
A. Scott Weber, Provost, University of Buffalo
Susan Wentz, Provost and Interim Chancellor, Vanderbilt University
Kimo Ah Yun, Provost, Marquette University
Pamela Zarkowski, Provost, University of Detroit Mercy
Minghua Zhang, Interim Provost, SUNY Stony Brook

Appendix A1: Medical schools that have announced they will accept P/NC grades for the spring 2020 semester without conditions

Albany Medical College
Boston University
Case Western Reserve University
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine
Creighton University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Emory University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine
Loma Linda University
Louisiana State University HSC at New Orleans
Medical College of Wisconsin
Mercer University School of Medicine
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Saint Louis University
Stanford University
SUNY Stony Brook
Texas A&M University
Tulane University
Uniformed Services University
University of Alabama Birmingham
University of Buffalo
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Davis
University of Colorado
University of Connecticut
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota

University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas, Austin
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech)
Wake Forest University
Washington University in Saint Louis
Yale University

Appendix A2: Osteopathic medicine schools that have announced they will accept P/NC grades for the spring 2020 semester without conditions

A.T. Still University - Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
A.T. Still University - School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona
Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
California Health Sciences University - College of Osteopathic Medicine
Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
Des Moines University - College of Osteopathic Medicine
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Auburn Campus
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas Campus
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Louisiana Campus
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Virginia Campus
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine - Bradenton
Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine

Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine/PCOM South Georgia
PCOM Georgia
Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine - Colorado/Utah
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - New York
Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine-California
Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine