SPRING 2020 GUIDELINES REGARDING GRADE WITH PASS/FAIL OPTION

The guidelines below on pass/fail and traditional letter grade options are a response to the extraordinary situation created by federal and state mandated measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines are for the Spring 2020 semester only.

Students can decide to pursue a Pass/Fail option by submitting an email to their advisors and the Academic Dean of the degree program the student is enrolled in.

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Students are required to achieve a C- or better to receive a notation of PA (pass) if this option is elected. Instructors will award the traditional letter grade that students earn for the semester and the PA/FA notation will be made by the Registrar’s Office if the Pass/Fail Option is elected.

1. Students will be allowed to select Pass/Fail grading through end of day, Monday, May 12, 2020. Students electing the Pass/Fail grading option must email their advisor and the academic dean of their degree program.

2. Some courses will not be eligible for Grading with Pass/Fail option. Courses within programs with an outside accreditation requirement, (i.e., courses coded NUR, EMS, MAC) and those that require a minimum passing grade for program progression (e.g., BIO courses) are not deemed eligible for the Pass/Fail option.

3. With a Pass/Fail option, a letter grade of FA is factored into the GPA as 0.0. If the student receives a grade of PA, it is not calculated into the grade point average for any reason. If a student wishes to return to the letter grade submitted by the instructor, that grade will be calculated back into the grade point average.

For the Spring 2020 semester, the College will be suspending: (1) restriction of the number of Pass/Fail credit hours a student can take and (2) the impact of pass/fail on honors notations that include President’s and Dean’s Lists.

TRANSCRIPTS AND TRANSFER

IMPORTANT: PROCEED WITH CAUTION: While the Pass/Fail option may seem like a good solution in the short term, it may have a long-term impact on students interested in transferring to other schools. Students who plan to transfer should review the Pass/Fail grade acceptance policy of the transfer institution prior to requesting the Pass/Fail option. While some institutions may provide leniency due to the COVID-19 virus, this cannot be assumed to be true for all
schools. Furthermore, particular programs within colleges and universities might have specific rules for their programs. The Admissions Office at receiving institutions can assist students with questions regarding transfer and the Pass/Fail option.

**Change of Letter Grade with Pass/Fail:** Given that students may later learn that they need a letter grade for transfer, students may request to change a PA grade back to a letter grade. A student may request to change a PA/FA notation to the letter grade that was awarded for a Spring 2020 course up to one year through 5/15/21 by submitting an email to pass-fail2020@gcc.mass.edu.