

October 26, 2020

Academic Policy Changes for Academic Year 2020-21

During these unprecedented times, one of RIT's most important priorities has been to retain our student-centered focus and to provide students with flexibility as they navigate their courses. We see this every day in the ways in which all members of our community respond to student needs and student stress levels. In order to provide an additional cushion for students who may be struggling with multiple course modalities and health/safety restrictions, we have modified two policies: the grading policy and the course withdrawal policy. Both policy modifications have been discussed with the Academic Senate and the faculty recommended the following policy changes be made for **both** fall and spring semesters.

Course Withdrawal Policy: The deadline for course withdrawals has been extended to the last day of classes. This date for Fall semester is November 24, 2020. We will announce the date for spring shortly.

Alternate Grading Options (pass/fail): This academic year, we have made a satisfactory/pass/no pass Alternate Grading Option available. Each semester, students will be able to take up to two classes using this option. As in the spring semester of 2020, students will be able to see their final grade before deciding whether to make this choice. Details about this Alternate Grading Option may be found [here](#).

Overview of the process:

- At the end of the term, faculty will submit letter grades using the Student Information System (SIS).
- Once grades are submitted, students will have the ability to select the Satisfactory/Pass/No Pass (commonly referred to as "pass/fail" at some institutions) grade option. *There is a limit to the number of classes that students can elect to have graded as Satisfactory/Pass/No Pass. Students can chose **two courses**.*
- If the Satisfactory/Pass/No Pass option is selected, regardless of the grade a student receives (SE, PE (UE for graduate classes), NE), the grade will not impact the term or cumulative GPA. Classes with a "D" or better (SE or

PE/UE) will receive academic credit. *Note: UE grades may not be used to satisfy graduate degree requirements as this grade equates to “C-” or “D”.*

- Students will select the Satisfactory/Pass/No Pass option using an online form. This form will be available on the [Office of the Registrar](#) webpage when grading for Fall 2020 begins.
- If after selecting the Satisfactory/Pass/No Pass grade option, the student decides that they want to have the final grade calculated into their GPA, they will have the ability to revert to the original grade they receive in the course up to the time of degree certification.

In addition to these modifications, we also expect to finalize modifications to the Academic Action Policy in the next week or so. The Spring Semester Academic Planning Committee is working with me and the Academic Senate on these proposed changes.

The registrar will send information to students about the changes to the course withdrawal deadline and grading options.

If you have further questions about these policies, please direct them to registrar@rit.edu.

Thank you to all members of our community for your outstanding efforts this semester. My very best wishes to each of you.

Ellen Granberg, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs