

**\*This list is just a sample of the emails the Mt. Lebanon School Counseling Department has received. If you are looking for a specific college/university not listed here, please contact the college/university directly via email or search their website for their statements in regard to this matter.**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **pass/fail grades on transcripts**

Our office has received several questions about our stance on schools moving to pass/fail in the last grading period. We support a school's decision to exercise this option and would ask that you include a notation on the transcript or in the school profile that you used P/F in a grading period.



**We recognize that school transcripts will look different for many students this year, and we will work with that!** Academic progress as usual is currently being disrupted for students across the globe. We encourage students to continue to engage with whatever method of learning your school is able to offer, and to do so to the best of your ability. If your school moves to an alternative grading system or method of credit notation (pass/fail, credit/no credit, etc.), we will fully understand why the change has been made and it will not, in any way, be an issue for an admissions office. If a high school closes and does not provide any online or structured replacement educational opportunities, rest assured that we will understand that as well (this is a good opportunity to read something new that piques your interest!).



### Academic Records

Just as secondary schools take a diverse set of approaches to curricula and assessment during normal times, schools are taking a diverse set of approaches when responding to the outbreak. We expect that many transcripts will look different for at least the spring 2020 semester. Regardless of your school's decisions, we will work to understand your school's unique context and will not penalize students whose transcripts lack letter grades. It may be helpful to know that Yale does not recalculate or re-weight grade point averages to a uniform scale.

We also recognize that many students' personal circumstances may make it especially difficult to achieve at their typical academic level during this time. These considerations will also be part of our committee's whole-person review.



Florida State University  
Office of Admissions

### Pass/Fail Grading

If your school has decided to change their normal grading system this year to reflect Pass/Fail grades, we completely understand this decision. At FSU, we offered a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option to our own students enrolled in the Spring term. Pass/Fail grades **will not** negatively impact your admission status as long as you pass! For all other students enrolled in high school, Pass/Fail grades will not negatively impact your ability to be considered for admission in 2021 and beyond.



University of Dayton

We know high schools are focused on multiple priorities, including moving to online instruction. Final grades, transcripts, graduation and AP courses are all in flux. UD is committed to doing all we can to assure you stay on track to have the college experience you've dreamed about. We will partner with you through all these unknowns.



HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY

Spring Semester Grades: We know that many students will only be able to present pass/fail grades or other similar marks on their transcripts this spring. They will not be disadvantaged as a result.

Whole Person Review: We will continue to look at the whole person as we consider applications next year – as always. Accomplishments in and out of the classroom during the high school years - including community involvement, employment, and help given to your family – will all be considered. Students who find themselves limited in the activities they can pursue due to the current coronavirus outbreak will not be disadvantaged as a result. Learn more about what we look for.



Colleges Expect Variance. *I don't know* how your high school is currently teaching your courses. *I DO know* it varies widely across our nation and the world. We've heard some schools may only issue pass/fail grades for this spring. Others are saying they plan to simplify their grading scales for this term or may compress certain subjects into summer courses (assuming they are back in school by June).

Undoubtedly, a lot of nuance and diversity. This should not concern you, or make you fearful that you'll be at a disadvantage. First, *everyone* is dealing with this unprecedented new reality and continually adjusting

to unfamiliar territory. Second, admission folks are used to seeing varying curriculum, grading scales, and delivery methods. They are trained to ask questions and dig deeply into your transcript. Holistic review means they are not putting your GPA into a spreadsheet and multiplying by some quotient. They don't expect uniformity. And given the global impact of Coronavirus, you should expect a lot of grace from colleges in the weeks, months, and year to come.

Colleges train readers and committees to consider your course choice and progression. Their assessment of your academic career in high school is never purely numerical or black and white. Their biggest question is always what could you have taken and what you chose to take during high school. In that sense, nothing has changed.



**My high school is going pass/fail. Is that OK?** Whatever your school does, we'll support it. If you have only P/F in the second semester, we'll totally understand. It might mean we put a bit more emphasis on your first semester, but we'll also completely understand your circumstances. If you're currently on an upward trend, we'll make the assumption that that trend would have continued in the second semester. We'll give you the benefit of the doubt in every single way we can. Tulane just announced that students can opt to take their classes Pass, Minimal Pass, Or Fail, so we get it. Go to your online classes, do the best you can, make your presence felt, try your hardest. We'll notice, trust me.



**Context matters.** There's no doubt that high school transcripts for this year's and future year's applicants will look different. There will be pass/fail grades where there once were As and Bs. There will be tests untaken, chances to improve foregone, and letters of recommendation truncated. But as it always has been at Vanderbilt, context dictates how we read files. And in unprecedented times, context will take on unprecedented importance. You have our pledge that as this crisis evolves, so too will our use of context in the admissions process. But it will never relinquish its central place in our evaluation of the files of your students. Holism has, and will remain, the byword of our admissions process.



Please be assured that Columbia Undergraduate Admissions fully supports the pedagogical and administrative decisions your school may make in order to assist your community through this crisis. For example, pass/fail marks or alternative grading methods in lieu of letter or numerical grades this spring will be accommodated when we review applicants' transcripts next year and beyond. We all have plenty of obstacles to navigate in the months ahead, and preparing paperwork for your college-bound students should be the least of your concerns.



Villanova University

During these unprecedented times, Villanova University is fully aware of how curriculum is being impacted. For example, Villanova is offering current students the ability to take classes with grades of satisfactory/unsatisfactory this semester.

Any shifts to your grading scale over this period of time will be considered in our review transcripts. We are mindful of all the adjustments that have been made in response to our current global climate, and you will not be penalized for any changes made outside of your control.

### Cornell College

**Pass/fail grading** - if students' courses end up changing from a scaled grading system to pass/fail we are open to working with that as we evaluate their coursework.



Colby College

The Colby Office of Admissions and Financial Aid fully supports the administrative and instructional accommodations your school may be forced to make during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that changes in pedagogy, academic schedules, and grading scales may significantly alter the academic and extracurricular activities students may otherwise pursue. Additionally, we recognize this is a stressful time for many students, educators, and school counselors, so please let us know if your school encounters any obstacles when submitting paperwork for your college-bound students, or if there are other ways we may support your efforts. Though students' college applications will likely look different than they have in the past, our admissions and financial aid team remains committed to our holistic principles, and to partnering with you to ensure the most talented students from all backgrounds have access to the best possible education.