

***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.**



We realize many of you have been faced with difficult decisions and challenging transitions—shifts to remote instruction and operations; canceled college fairs and college visits; grading changes to pass/fail; and canceled standardized exams, to name a few.

Adelphi University supports you, your students and your community in this unprecedented time as difficult decisions have been made for the safety, health and well-being of your students and community members. We too have been faced with similar decisions and recognize the angst that goes into analyzing every possible impact.



Pass/Fail: We realize many schools are considering pass/fail grading for the remainder of the academic year. For seniors concerned about admission or scholarships, we encourage them to keep their grades up. Scholarships or admission will not be revoked unless they fail a core course, thereby not fulfilling our academic requirements.



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

What is AU's policy for Pass/Fail grades on transcripts? What will be accepted on the final year transcript? How will this impact future applicants?

Given the unusual circumstances facing us all, we will be as flexible and accommodating to students as possible. We understand that some seniors may be awarded Pass/Fail grades for this semester. The use of Pass/Fail grades will not negatively impact their admission to AU. Final transcripts should demonstrate proof of successful graduation and include a graduation date.

For future applicants, we will grant the same understanding for a Pass/Fail grading structure for this semester. We encourage you to include a statement on your school profile to indicate the reason for the Pass/Fail grades for this semester.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Prospective First-Year Students

My school has transitioned to pass/fail, credit/no credit assessments for the remainder of the year and I am concerned about the impact on my GPA. How will this be considered when I apply to BU?

We understand that high schools have adopted a wide variety of policies around academic assessment and we plan to be flexible and to honor whatever decisions your school has made about grading and course requirements. Please rest assured that you will not be disadvantaged during the admissions process.



The global health crisis has forced the closure of high schools across the country and prompted sudden shifts to remote instruction. Some schools adopted “pass/fail” or “credit/no credit” grading instead of letter grades for A-G courses needed to qualify for UC admission. These measures had the potential to adversely affect not only the incoming freshman class, but all high school students seeking a UC education, making it challenging to meet University requirements. Meanwhile, K-12 standardized testing and college entrance exams have been cancelled, further thwarting student progress. In response, the Regents approved a series of critical, short-term measures: Suspending the letter grade requirement for A-G courses completed in winter/spring/summer 2020 for all students, including UC’s most recently admitted freshmen.

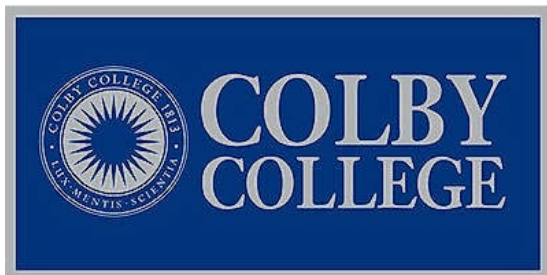


My course grades were switched to pass/fail for Spring 2020. How will this impact the review of my transcript?

We understand and support the move to pass/fail grading options which many schools and colleges have adopted as a valid COVID-19 accommodation. As such, we will be accepting pass/fail results in the normal review of transcripts during this time.



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!).



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.



In these extraordinary times, Colgate University is actively supporting the needs of students by putting their best interests first. Due to the disruption of teaching and standardized testing worldwide caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the submission of SAT and ACT scores will be optional for all fall 2021 applicants to Colgate University.

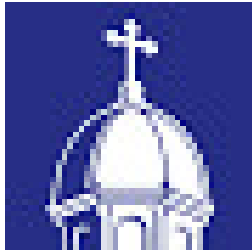
Colgate will continue to approach application review in a holistic way by valuing the context of students' experiences. As many encounter disruptions in their learning environments, Colgate is committed to the evaluation of students' academic achievement within the context of what their schools offer. We trust that our school partners have implemented policies in the best interest of their students, and we remain supportive and flexible to ensure that students are not negatively impacted by circumstances beyond their control.



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.



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.



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.



We sent you an email last week announcing that DePaul will freeze tuition for the 2020-21 academic year. We realize you may still have questions on other aspects of DePaul, so we are hoping to ease some stress with the creation of this update email on important information you need to know about admission, DePaul, and Illinois.

Admission:

Pass/Fail Grades - We understand some families are getting anxious about schools that may be giving pass/fail grades for this current term in light of e-learning during school closures. Please rest assured that we will accept final transcripts with pass/fail grades for this current semester for our admitted freshman students as long as a graduation date is listed.



Pass/Fail Grades

Some schools are moving to P/F grades this term. Students won't be penalized for not receiving traditional grades. We are telling students to stay focused and that their main goal is to meet their schools' requirements to earn their diplomas. For athletes, we expect the NCAA to offer interpretations and guidance any day now, and I'm anticipating their actions to be flexible and reasonable.



For your juniors: Our virtual visit page includes great options for students just beginning to explore all that Dickinson has to offer—virtual tours, a virtual Q&A and a gallery that gives a look into every facet of life at Dickinson—safely, from home. We know that juniors are worried about the impact this spring will have on their college applications. Of course, our longstanding test-optional policy means canceled standardized-test administrations won't affect an application to Dickinson. We know that grades for this spring may or may not be what they would have wanted or may have changed to pass/fail. We are committed to working with your juniors. Our message to them: slow down, take a breath, control what they can and explain what they can't. We understand.



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.



We understand that COVID-19 has been disruptive to schools across the globe. **We will be flexible with grading adjustments** that secondary schools have adopted to complete the 2019-2020 academic year.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Georgetown will be flexible and understanding regarding the transition many of you are making to a virtual learning environment. We also understand that the school year has come to an abrupt end for others. We anticipate that some of you will receive traditional grades for this semester and others simply be issued a pass/fail grade. Whatever the scenario you are facing, rest assured that we will work with you and your school counselor as needed. Individual schools and school districts are making decisions for their student populations that we will respect and honor when reviewing your transcript.



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.



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.



Northeastern University

The following information will also be appropriately shared with admitted and prospective students and their families.

High School Grading

We know that entire communities have had to change their teaching and learning practices in an instant, and that many people are anxious about how that will impact grades and final exams. Northeastern respects each school district's pedagogy and will be thoughtful about the impact of this spring as we work with students entering as first-years and as we evaluate students for admission in the coming years.



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Yes, we will accept Pass/Fail grades as long as your high school is certifying that you have met requirements for graduation and produces an official final high school transcript with a graduation date.



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Flexible Approach to Reviewing Spring 2020 Academic Performance

We know that the academic disruption caused by various COVID-19 response plans during the pandemic may mean that your students experience variable academic performance in the spring 2020 semester. We are asking that they do their best as they complete the academic term and that they honor and respect the educators who are striving to help them. We are committed to reviewing spring 2020 coursework and performance with a clear and empathetic understanding of the context under which the coursework was performed, both for the immediately available entry terms and beyond.



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.



Most importantly, I want to remind you that our admissions process has always relied on what we call “whole person review”: the practice of considering each student’s individual context and environment as we learn through their applications about their lived experiences, their achievements, and the academic and personal contributions they have made in their respective school communities. This philosophy will continue in the age of COVID-19, which means:

- We understand that schools and districts are making the best decisions they can at this moment in the interest of their students' health and educational experience. We respect and support the decisions schools are making, and recognize these decisions will likely alter the way course selection, grading, exams, classroom learning, extracurricular activities and many other aspects of secondary school administration and pedagogy play out over the coming weeks and months. We are committed to continuing to work with all of our applicants and their counselors to understand the ways in which their lives have had to shift in light of COVID-19, and to support students in their efforts to represent those shifts effectively in their Penn applications.
- We expect students to make the most of the educational opportunities available to them, but will continue to consider the many elements impacting and shaping their high school experiences as a result of COVID-19. The fact that the educational setting is remote will not have any bearing on their application review or outcome.



Academic Record: Our holistic admission process is centered on evaluating each student in the context of their opportunities and realities. While we expect that your students will be pursuing opportunities that will best prepare them for their future success in college, we certainly understand that this school year has evolved in ways none of us anticipated. Despite these changes, we encourage students to pursue a strong curriculum, and we hope that your students will continue to challenge themselves and pursue courses that excite them and inspire them to learn. However, in light of the school year disruption caused by COVID-19 and remote learning modifications, we are prepared to accept the grading policies your high school or school district has implemented for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Should there be disruptions in the 2020-2021 academic year we will make adjustments to accept those policy changes as well.



In light of the disruption caused by COVID-19, much of what we know and expect has changed and will continue to change. Despite any alteration to grading policies and academic calendars, we encourage your students to continue to engage with whatever method of learning your school is able to offer. Please know that we understand this is not how you expected this year to go, and that some changes are simply out of your control. If your school moves to a different grading system (pass/fail, credit/no credit, etc.) or different method of instruction (remote, online, etc.), these changes will not impact an offer of admission from the University of Richmond.



Many of you have been asking questions about how COVID-19 may influence policy changes with our University. Below are some updates that Shippensburg University is implementing to help students and their families during this time.

Shippensburg University will not have a confirmed deadline, thus providing maximum flexibility to your students as they make their college decision.

Shippensburg will accept pass/fail grades as acceptable replacements for the regular grading system within schools.



Offering Flexibility to Students and Our Commitment to You.

We realize that many schools around the world have experienced disruptions and closures as a result of the public health crisis. Our regional deans are here to help. We want you to know that we will work with prospective students and applicants to ensure that they are able to apply to Swarthmore, regardless of circumstances. We also understand that, as a result of school disruptions, students' high school years may look a bit different, and that's okay. If your students are no longer able to participate in traditional extra-curricular activities, part-time jobs, internships or similar activities, we understand. If your school transitions to pass/fail or credit/no credit grading, that's fine. If your students don't think they're ready to take the newly designed AP exam or are concerned that IB tests have been cancelled, no worries. Simply put, we want students to take care of themselves first instead of worrying about the college admissions process for now.



PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

How will you review the second semester of my junior year?

We know this is a challenging, uncertain time and SMU's Office of Undergraduate Admission will continue to provide a truly holistic review of a student's application. It is our hope that all students will actively stay engaged in their academics to prepare for future academic success as well as for standardized testing.

If schools go to a Pass/Fail system of grading (or credit/no credit), how will SMU review that during the application process?

We have heard of many schools who plan to take this approach. A student will not be penalized for any adjustment to grading methodology during this period of time.



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.



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.



Please know that students will not be at a disadvantage in the admission process as a result of school closures and cancellations associated with standardized testing. Students are not responsible for things they cannot control. With most high schools closed for the spring semester, we will need to be flexible when evaluating transcripts and academic course work, and we will continue to monitor the state of standardized testing nationally and abroad. If testing is cancelled through the summer and into the fall, we will need to discuss our testing requirements for next year.



I hope you all are staying safe and healthy, and coping with the challenging circumstances we are facing together. At Virginia Tech, we are committed to adapting our policies to meet students where they are. We realize these are challenging times for everyone, including students who've been offered admission and prospective students considering applying to the university. And we don't want to add more pressure to an already stressful situation. That's why we are making significant changes for the upcoming admissions cycle.

This fall, Virginia Tech will maintain its academic standards while accommodating students by making the admissions process "test-optional." This means that for students applying to be part of the university's Class of 2025, SAT and ACT standardized tests are not required. There will be no advantage or special consideration for students who choose to take the tests, and no penalty for those who choose to not take the tests.

In addition to the test-optional accommodation, other considerations will be made, including accepting the grading policies that high schools have put in place for their current online teaching curriculum. For Advanced Placement testing and credit, undergraduate admissions will accept scores from any modified policies that The College Board adopts.



We are not going to penalize any student for the decisions their school makes in regards to this semester. We fully recognize that school districts are handling this in such a wide variety of ways that even trying to keep track of them has become challenging. Although we would like to think that schools will be able to maintain the same level of instruction and engagement online as they would in the classroom, we are also aware of the reality. If a school chooses to use Pass/Fail, then we are just going to make sure that applicants have passed their courses this semester and will focus on the gpa from 9-11 without trying to factor in the Pass/Fail from this semester.

W&J is already a test optional institution, so we expect a few more students to apply using this option. No big deal at all for us to handle. Our approach here will not change, the primary driver will remain high school record, which we believe is the best indicator of future success at W&J.

I am sure that you are probably getting a wide variety of responses from colleges. Just know that we are going to support whatever decision you folks make and it will not put your students at a disadvantage.



Additional Flexibility in the Admission Process

We understand that the pandemic has led to school closings, shifts to remote learning and pass/fail grading policies, cancellations of co-curricular activities, and a host of other disruptions that dramatically impact students' experiences. You can be certain that we'll be flexible in working with students and families no matter what challenges or limitations they've faced. None of us know what the next few months will hold, but our commitment to getting to know students and their stories will remain at the core of everything we do.



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.



Some schools are choosing to offer grades on a pass/fail basis for the spring term. This will not affect seniors who earn passing grades. For juniors who intend to apply for Fall 2021, and who have 'passing' grades, their Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 grades will be used more closely for admission to the Fall Class of 2021. We look forward to working with the Fall Class of 2021 and although there are no current changes to our admissions policies, we will continue to monitor and adjust as needed.