

Hamden High School
Flexible and Compassionate Grading Options
Quarter 4

Faced with an unprecedented situation, the district was tasked with creating an equitable and accessible grading system to summarize student performance during the COVID-19 crisis and subsequent school closure.

Hamden High School is committed to supporting the entire student body. This includes their physical and emotional well-being, as well as the academic growth and progress. Using guidance from the State Department of Education, the Connecticut Association of Schools, and stakeholder feedback, the below grading system eliminates penalties that may have been caused by students' access to content, or caused by economic and social stressors that influenced students' performance during the distance learning period. The options presented below demonstrate Hamden Public Schools commitment to inclusivity and equity for all of our learners.

No student will receive a failing grade for Quarter 4.

Quarter 4 will follow the traditional numeric/weighted grading system.

- 10% of the final year grade
 - 29% of Semester 2 Courses
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- Honors student effort and adjusts weighting to accommodate for the change to distance learning platform

*Families will be provided the opportunity to consult with their child's House Administrator if the traditional grading system does not adequately support or meet their child's needs. **The following options are available through consultation with the House team:***

Pass (Exempt):

- Course credit earned
 - Quarter 4 does not calculate into weighted GPA
 - No numeric value given to Pass
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- 100% of the student's weighted GPA is calculated into Quarter 1, Quarter 2, mid-term exam and Quarter 3

Pass (Non-exempt):

- Course credit earned
 - Quarter 4 does not calculate into weighted GPA
 - Numeric value of 85% given to Pass to calculate course average that includes Quarter 4
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- Students who were not passing a course at school closure, but were within reach, to continue to demonstrate mastery to earn the credit
 - Allows students with low first semester grades and/or low third marking period grades to improve scores and earn class credit

Incomplete

- This option as stated by the CSDE “supports students who may not have had adequate access to technology, students with IEPs in need of direct support, EL students, students who may need counseling or mental health services, students who were sick themselves, caring for a family member, or dealing with the trauma of loss as a result of the pandemic, and disengaged students, who with a second chance opportunity and counseling could regain agency and get a result of pass (and credit).”
- Students will be given an opportunity to change an incomplete to a pass through an alternate educational opportunity
- No Quarter 4 failures

Individualized Grading Plans

- Such a plan would be tailored to an individual student’s needs
- Honors student effort and adjusts weighting to accommodate for the change to distance learning platform
- Individualized grading plan for students will allow for House Teams to determine the most equitable way to support each student individually

Beginning on March 13, 2020 and inclusive of the entire fourth marking period no grade lower than a 50% shall be given to a student on any assignment. Students will have extended time to make up missing assignments. Missing assignments will be issued an M grade which will have a value of 50%.

There will be no final exams.

The above option references only Quarter 4. Final transcripts will only report completed final grades. No student will receive a failing grade for Quarter 4. Students unable to pass Quarter 4 will receive an Incomplete with an opportunity to pass through an alternate educational opportunity.

While it is impossible to predict how the college landscape may change, Hamden Public Schools strives to ensure that all of our students’ needs are being met in the most equitable manner possible.