

# PASS/NO CREDIT GRADING OPTION

## What Is It?

Most classes at Hibbing Community College are typically graded with a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F. For the Spring 2020 term, we are giving students the option of choosing to be graded instead using the grades of either P for “Pass” or NC for “No Credit.”

## How Does It Work?

Faculty in A-F graded courses will continue to grade you on an A-F scale, but if you choose the P/NC option, your A-F grade will be converted to a corresponding “Pass” or “No Credit” grade after the end of the semester. For most classes, grades of A, B, C and D will be converted to P grades, and grades of F will be converted to NC grades. The exception is courses with the course designator DAS, MLT and NURS, which are taught by the Dental Assisting, Medical Lab and Nursing departments. For these courses, grades of both D and F will convert to NC. .

You can choose to change to a P/NC grading method on a course-by-course basis. You have until **May 22nd** to make this decision for each of your courses. See the link above for the form you may use to make this change.

Students currently being graded on a Pass/Fail scale who are eligible for the P/NC grading method will be converted to a Pass/No Credit scale, allowing F’s to be converted to NC’s.

## Potential Benefits

1. With all of the time and effort you have invested in your courses already, this grading option will provide a low-risk way for you to finish the course and continue to make progress toward your ultimate goal of graduation or transfer.
2. P and NC grades are not included in the calculation of your grade point average (GPA). Thus, if challenging personal circumstances or the unexpected learning environment of remote learning make it harder this semester to get as high a grade as you would otherwise, this will protect your cumulative GPA.
3. Because P and NC grades don’t impact GPA, the P/NC grade method offers students protection against being suspended as part of the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) process. For spring semester, courses graded W, I or IP will be excluded from calculation of percent completion; and NC graded courses **will** be included in the calculation.

## Potential Drawbacks

1. Although a P/NC grade can't hurt your GPA, it also can't help your GPA. If students determine their GPA will increase by sticking with the A-F grading method, they should do so. Because the deadline for making the choice of Pass/No Credit is well after the end of the semester, you will know the impact of your grades on your GPA and be able to make an informed choice.
2. In addition, although a P/NC can't hurt your GPA, *it will impact your cumulative course completion rate* that is calculated as part of the Satisfactory Academic Progress process. A Pass grade (like an A, B, C or D) will increase your completion rate; a grade of NC will decrease your completion rate in the same way an F would.
3. Under normal circumstances, many transfer institutions and graduate schools do not accept courses that were graded on a P/NC scale. However, many institutions plan to make an exception for the Spring 2020 term and accept courses with a "P" grade in transfer.

- The Minnesota State system has determined that all Minnesota State colleges and universities will accept Spring 2020 grades of "P" in undergraduate transfer. This includes counting those courses toward major requirements, as well as toward graduation requirements and any other purposes that impact a student's academic standing or progression.
- The University of Minnesota also plans to accept Spring 2020 grades of "P" in undergraduate transfer in most cases (please see the Q&A on "Transfer" on this [U of M webpage](#)).
- Some transfer partners, including Augsburg and Hamline, have indicated they will not accept our P grade as passing except for those courses in which we use an A-C standard for a passing grade. *If you plan to transfer to a private college, please consult with your advisor before electing the P/NC grading option.*

4. Some students may not be eligible for P/NC grading. These may include some students receiving Veterans Education Benefits, so these students should check with the College's Veteran School Certifying Official, Kari Doucette, prior to requesting a grade method change. International students, typically not eligible for P/NC grading, are eligible for the Spring 2020 semester as a result in temporary changes in federal rules.

The good thing is – **You don't have to decide right now.**

You will have until May 22, 2020, to decide and submit if you wish to opt for P/NC grading. By this time, you will know how well you did in the course, and by then we hope to know more about what the implications are for transferring P/NC grades to institutions outside of Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota. We will continue to update this page as we learn more.

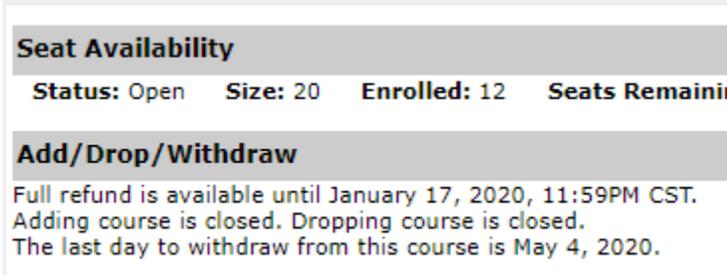
## EXTENTION OF DEADLINE TO WITHDRAW

### What Is It?

The Minnesota State system typically sets a deadline for students to withdraw that is set at the point when 80 percent of the term has been completed. The system had extended that point to 90 percent of the term, which means Hibbing Community College students will have longer than usual to decide whether to withdraw from course.

### How Does It Work?

Students will be able to withdraw as they normally do, but they will have more time to do so. The deadline to withdraw (which differs based on the length of the course) can be found on the [Course Schedule](#). Find your course section and then scroll down to the bottom of the page (see example below).



The screenshot shows a course page with the following information:

- Seat Availability**
- Status: Open    Size: 20    Enrolled: 12    Seats Remaining: 8
- Add/Drop/Withdraw**
- Full refund is available until January 17, 2020, 11:59PM CST.
- Adding course is closed. Dropping course is closed.
- The last day to withdraw from this course is May 4, 2020.

### Potential Benefits

1. Compared with the earlier withdrawal deadline, this will give students time to determine whether their new learning environment and personal circumstances provide an environment in which they can academically succeed in the current term.

### Potential Drawbacks

1. As is the case with NC grades, a grade of W (Withdrawal) will not impact a student's GPA. However, we have learned that W's and NC's will not have the same impact on the completion rate standard of the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) process.

The federal government has enacted a law that allows us to exclude Spring 2020 grades of W from the completion rate, if the student withdrew between March 13 and the deadline to withdraw from that class. It is not allowing this same exclusion for a grade of NC -- grades of NC will reduce a student's completion rate for purposes of SAP. (As in the past, students who are put on SAP warning or SAP suspension will have the right to appeal, including for reasons related to COVID-19).

*Students should consult with their instructor and advisor to determine whether they should withdraw from any classes as a result.* Note that the deadline to withdraw from full-term courses this Spring is Monday, May 4. For shorter-term courses, the deadline to withdraw is shown along with the course description in [eServices](#).

# **“COVID-19” NOTATION ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT**

## **What Is It?**

The Minnesota State system (like many other colleges and universities throughout the country) will be developing a mechanism for making it clear on your transcript which grades were in terms impacted by COVID-19.

## **How Does It Work?**

We are still figuring out the details of how this will work at Minneapolis College. We will be working to make sure it is in step with and recognizable by other higher education institutions in Minnesota and across the country.

## **Potential Benefits**

1. It is expected that transfer institutions and others will make allowances for grades impacted by the unprecedented disruptions of COVID-19 on students and institutions.

## **Potential Drawbacks**

1. There are no known drawbacks to this approach at this time.