

# Advising Update: Emergency P/F Policies in Effect

## Faculty Advisors

**As you're aware, the following Emergency P/F Policies have been put in place for Spring 2020. We are all hearing from undergraduate and graduate students with questions about the policies. For clarification:**

## Undergraduate Students

- A "P" grade does not get calculated into a student's GPA.
- This P/F policy is blanket and supersedes all P/F policies, including in majors/minors.
- Students should think carefully about transitioning any grade to P, especially if they are considering graduate school. Faculty advising is particularly important along these lines. We're also hearing that some graduate programs are announcing leniency, given the emergency situation this semester.
- Please ask any pre-health student to contact Sara Purisky ([sara.purisky@simmons.edu](mailto:sara.purisky@simmons.edu)), Pre-Health Advisor in UG Advising, with questions.

## Undergraduate Emergency P/F Policy for Spring 2020

- All programs will offer the emergency P/F option. The Emergency P/F policy supersedes existing P/F policy and the revised deadlines implemented for spring 2020.
- Students will earn a letter grade from the faculty member in each course.
- At the end of the semester, when grading is complete, students may elect to change any or all of their grades to P (or F). Requests for the change to a P grade shall be made using the form being developed for the Registrar's web page.
- A "P" grade shall equate to a "D" or above. (Note: this is more generous than the Simmons transfer policy which accepts no transfer grades lower than a "C.")
- An "F" stands on the transcript as a failing grade. No credits are granted for a failed course; the 0.0 grade point is calculated into the GPA.

Please refer to the following table for the revised deadlines for faculty submission of grades and for student requests for grade changes:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>**NEW DEADLINES**</b>
Graduating Student Grades Due	5/11	5/18 Noon
All Grades Due	5/18	5/18 Noon
P/F Student Request Due	N/A	5/22 Noon

### Reminder: Incompletes

Faculty will be able to approve incompletes without Administrative Board approval \*for work to be completed by June 18.\* If students need to extend beyond June 18, the approval must go through the Administrative Board.

## Graduate Students

### Graduate Program Emergency P/F Policy for Spring 2020

1. All semester-based programs (both on-campus and online) will offer the emergency P/F option, provided that this option does not violate professional accreditation or licensure requirements. The Emergency P/F option will also apply to any online graduate program term that began between January 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020.
2. Students will earn a letter grade from the faculty member in each course.
3. At the end of the semester/online term, when grading is complete, students may elect to change grades to the Emergency P/F system. Requests for grade changes shall be made using the form being developed for the Registrar's web page.
4. A "P" grade equates to a "C" or above.
5. A "C-" or lower grade cannot be converted to a "P," but the grade point for a "C-" or any "D" grade is calculated in the GPA. In addition, while a "C-" or lower may carry credits, many programs specify courses in which students must achieve a minimum grade to maintain good academic standing.

6. An “F” stands on the transcript as a failing grade. No credits are granted; a 0.0 grade point is calculated into the GPA.

Please refer to the following table for the new deadlines for faculty submission of grades and for student requests for grade changes:

Semester	Grades Due	P/F Petitions Due
Spring Campus-based Graduate; Online SLIS, Online NUTR	5/18	5/22
January Nursing@Simmons, BA@Simmons, SW@simmons	4/24 (Current)	5/1
March Nursing@Simmons, BA@Simmons, SW@Simmons	6/26 (Current)	7/3
January MPH@Simmons, MBA@Simmons	4/3 (Current)	Direct communication to students
April MPH@Simmons, MBA@Simmons	7/3 (Current)	7/10

## Reminders: Advising Resources for Faculty

To continue to provide your advisees with support around course registration and academic planning for the upcoming Fall 2020 semester, the Office of Undergraduate Advising would like to share [best practices, resources, and tips](#) in providing online advising support to your students.

### Zoom Trainings

The Center for Excellence in Teaching is hosting Zoom sessions related to various aspects of online learning throughout the semester. Questions? Contact [kristi.mukk@simmons.edu](mailto:kristi.mukk@simmons.edu).

### Zoom Waiting Room

One thing the Advising team is looking forward to trying is the [Waiting Room](#) feature in Zoom. The waiting room is a tool faculty can use when offering office hours to conduct your advising sessions.

The Waiting Room feature allows the host to control when a participant joins the meeting. As the meeting host, you can admit attendees one by one or hold all attendees in the waiting room and admit them all at once. You can send all participants to the waiting room when joining your meeting or only guests, participants who are not on your Zoom account or are not signed in.

If you have any advising related questions, please email Cindy Firestein, the Director of Undergraduate Advising, at [cindy.firestein@simmons.edu](mailto:cindy.firestein@simmons.edu). If you have any Starfish related questions, please email [starfish-group@simmons.edu](mailto:starfish-group@simmons.edu). If you have any Zoom related questions, please email Kristi Mukk, the Projects and Events Coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Teaching, at [kristi.mukk@simmons.edu](mailto:kristi.mukk@simmons.edu).