COVID-19 Academic Options and Support

Inver Hills recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and has made a major impact on the spring semester. Our goal is to provide flexibility and options for students as they complete the term.

Pass/No Credit Grading Option

Courses are normally assigned grades of A, B, C, D, or F. During the Spring 2020 semester, students may choose the Pass/No credit (P/NC) grading option instead. A “Pass” indicates a C or better grade, and “No Credit” would be assigned in place of a D or F.

How does it work?

- **Students**: Complete the Optional Grade Request Form at [www.inverhills.edu/OptionalGrade](http://www.inverhills.edu/OptionalGrade).
- Faculty in your A-F graded courses will continue to grade you on an A-F scale, unless you choose and submit the form to select the P/NC option.
- The deadline to make this change is May 29, 2020.

Is this the right option for you?

- **Pass/No Credit grades are not calculated into GPA**, so it is an alternate way to keep making academic progress. If the stress of COVID-19 or shifting to the online format has been challenging for you and you are unsure if you should withdraw from a course or stay enrolled, this may be a good option.
- **You can decide your grade option for each course**, so you can allow for traditional grades in some courses, and P/NC in others.
- **Is it possible you will get a D?** If so, you may want to stay in the course and keep it for a letter grade if your cumulative GPA will stay above 2.0. A course with a D grade will meet a requirement for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) and many degree requirements. However, if you earn a D, with the P/NC option a grade of NC will be given which will not result in credits earned or requirements met.

Other considerations:

- **Review your degree requirements**. Some degrees have requirements for certain course grades to be higher than a C, and a P grade wouldn’t meet the requirement. Some programs, including Nursing, EMS, and Law Enforcement may not allow for P/NC grading options.
- **It may impact future admissions into transfer or graduate institutions**. Many colleges and universities are offering students this option this spring, so though it is our hope that there will be flexibility in the future, we don’t know how P/NC grades will impact future admission into competitive programs.
- **Students who receive VA Education Benefits** should consult Inver Hills Veterans Advisor/VA Certifying Official Sue Flannigan (sflannigan@inverhills.edu) before changing to Pass/No Credit, as this grade option can impact benefits.
- **Questions?** Talk with an advisor or counselor.
Extended Withdrawal Deadline
The original deadline to withdraw from a full-term spring course was April 20, 2020 (or 80% completion of the semester). This deadline has been pushed back to May 1 (90% of the term) to give students more time to decide if they can complete the course.

How Does It Work?
- Students can withdraw in e-Services (and get a grade of W) in the “View/Modify Schedule” section of “Courses & Registration” until May 1.

Is this the right option for you?
- A “W” grade is not factored into your GPA. If you do not believe it will be possible to complete a course, a withdrawal is likely your best option. You will not need to return any financial aid at this point, and it may allow you to focus on your other courses.
- Is it possible you will get a D? If so, you may want to stay in the course and keep it for a letter grade if your GPA will stay above 2.0. A course with a D grade will meet a requirement for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) and many degree requirements.

Other considerations:
- A Withdrawal (W) will factor in to your course completion rate when we calculate Satisfactory Academic Progress, which requires that you complete at least two-thirds of the total credits you attempt.
- A Withdrawal (W) may factor into your student loan status. In order to remain in in-school status (and not repayment status), students must be enrolled for at least 6 credits. Withdrawn courses are considered not-enrolled and may change this status.
- You will not earn credit from withdrawn courses, and there is no refund.
- It may delay graduation. You will want to talk with an advisor or counselor to update your academic plan.

Incomplete Grade
A grade of incomplete (I) allows additional time for students to complete a course.

How does it work?
- Start by talking with your instructor. Instructor approval is required for a grade of incomplete.
- If your instructor indicates that an incomplete grade is an appropriate option, complete the form at www.inverhills.edu/CollegeForms/pdfs/academic_records/IncompleteGradeReque.pdf.

Is this the right option for you?
- An incomplete grade may be an option if you have completed at least 75% of the assigned coursework.
- Incomplete grades convert to “F” grades if course is not completed by the deadline established by your instructor. Only request an incomplete if you are confident you will be able to complete the remaining coursework in the time allotted.
Other considerations

- A grade of incomplete counts as credits attempted but not earned, thus negatively impacting a student’s course completion rate. However, the course completion rate is re-calculated once the course is completed and a final grade is submitted.