The Passing Grade Option for MCOM Major/Minor
Spring 2020 (4/2/2020)

By now, you are aware of TU’s Grading Policy for Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency. The Department of Mass Communication will comply with the University’s policy.

It is important that you make an informed decision whether you continue with a letter grading system (default, no action required) or decide to switch to the Pass/Credit/No Credit grading for one or more MCOM classes that you are taking this semester.

The default grading in all MCOM classes will continue to be a regular letter grade system, A through F, except for internships. Under the new grading policy for spring 2020 only, you have an option to switch to the Pass/Credit/No Credit grading option for some or all MCOM courses. Remember that this is your option, not a mandatory action by the University. You can make the change until May 12.

For the majority of you, keeping a regular letter grade (default) will be just the right decision in most or all classes, despite some challenges you are faced with due to the COVID-19 situation. Therefore, you don’t need to take any action about the grading system this spring. Continue focusing on doing the best work you can and earn the best grade you can.

For some, you may be dealing with exceptionally challenging situations at home, at work, or in classes resulting from the changes due to the COVID-19 situation. A switch to Pass/Credit/No Credit grading system may bring you some physical, mental, or emotional relief under these stressful circumstances. However, you should make an informed choice. There are situations where a Pass/Credit/No Credit grading may hurt you rather than helping you.

Most importantly, do NOT rush into a decision now. There is no need to do so. It is wise for you to wait until you have a reasonably good sense of your performance in each class before making any decision one way or another.

When you are ready to make the decision before May 12, please carefully review the guidelines by the Registrar’s Office. In addition, the department has developed general guidelines for MCOM majors and minors specifically to guide your decision.

When to Switch (or Not to Switch) to the Passing Grading Option
Spring 2020 Guidelines

In a nutshell
If you are looking for a few simple rules to guide your decision, consider the following. These are general guidelines from an academic standpoint only. They are not meant to be precise answers to your unique personal situation, academically or otherwise.
A. You may want to stick with the letter grading system (a default, no actions required) if you are:

1. Confident in the course work and expect a course grade that is higher than your current overall GPA (generally, B or higher).
2. Aiming to improve your overall GPA for various reasons (self-motivation, Dean’s list, internship requirement, scholarship, financial aid, graduate or professional school, etc.)
3. Anticipating a post-graduation plan in which letter grades are required from undergraduate transcripts.

B. You may consider Pass/Credit/No Credit grading if you are:

1. Expecting a course grade that is lower than your current GPA (generally, C or lower).
2. Not concerned about raising your overall GPA.
3. Not anticipating any post-graduation plan in which letter grades are required from undergraduate transcripts, e.g., graduate school, professional school, etc.
4. Repeating a course, but you are not sure whether you will earn a high grade (e.g., B+ or higher). In most cases, you will be better off by choosing a PS grade option when repeating a course this spring.

C. A few other things to keep in mind

- You can use a PS grade from spring 20 only (or a letter grade of C or higher at any time) to satisfy the requirements for MCOM major or MCOM minor. PS grades also satisfy prerequisites for MCOM courses.
- A PS grade will not be calculated into your overall GPA (except when you are repeating a course this spring). A letter grade of C or higher will be calculated into your overall GPA.
- A CRD grade (or a letter grade of D or D+) does NOT satisfy MCOM major, minor, and prerequisite requirements. But, you will earn credits towards 120 credits for graduation.
- A CRD grade will not be calculated into your overall GPA (except when you are repeating a course this spring). A letter grade of D or D+ will.
- A NCR grade (or a letter grade of F or FX) does NOT satisfy MCOM major, minor, and prerequisite requirements. And, you will not earn credits towards 120 credits for graduation.
- A NCR grade will not be calculated into your overall GPA.