MCOM Admission Requirement Change for Spring 2020
The Passing Grade Option (4/2/2020)

In light of the recent announcement on TU’s Grading Policy Change for spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation, the Department of Mass Communication has adjusted the admission requirement for MCOM major for spring, summer, and fall 2020.

This document is provided to help you make an informed decision on when you may or may not want to choose the Passing grade option for the purpose of applying for MCOM major.

Overview

The Pass Grading Option has three types of grades: The PS (pass) grade, CRD (credit) grade, and NCR (no credit) grade. In order to use your screening class to apply for the MCOM major, you must earn a PS grade in that class. If you are sticking with the regular letter grading option, you will need to earn a C or higher in that screening class. The PS grade option is available for classes from spring 20 only. See the Passing Grade Option page on the Registrar’s website.

Some of you may be taking one or more screening classes this spring, but will not be ready to apply for the major until summer or fall 20. The department will accept PS grades from spring 20 when you apply for the major in spring, summer, or fall 20.

The department will also waive a 2.75 GPA requirement from the three screening courses for the spring, summer, or fall 20 applicants. This is because a PS grade will not be calculated into your GPA. The rest of the screening requirement remains the same as before.

In summary, for this spring, summer, and fall only, your application for Mass Communication major will be approved if:

1. You have completed the three screening classes with a passing grade in each (a PS grade from spring 20 or a letter grade of C or higher).
2. Your overall GPA is 2.75 or higher.
3. You have completed at least 30 units at Towson University or elsewhere at the time of application.

If you have already submitted your application for the major, you do NOT need to resubmit your application by May 20th. The reviewers will accept the PS grade or any letter grade of C or higher for the screening courses, after your spring 20 grades are entered.

When to switch (or not to switch) to the Passing grading option
Below are some general guidelines to help your decision on whether or not to elect the PS/CRD/NCR grade option for each class you are enrolled in spring 20. These guidelines are mainly for the screening purpose. You may have other reasons to choose one option over the other.

A. You may want to stay with a letter grade (default, no action required) if:
   • Your current overall GPA is slightly below 2.75, and you are confident that you will earn a strong grade (B or higher) from the course you are enrolled in spring 20. This action will raise your overall GPA.
   • Your current overall GPA is 2.75 or higher, which is required for the screening into the MCOM major, but you want to improve your GPA further for other reasons (self-motivation, Dean’s List, internship requirement, scholarship, financial aid, graduate or professional school, etc.).

B. You may switch to a PS grade option if:
   • You currently have a 2.75 or higher overall GPA, which is required for the screening into the MCOM major, and you are not concerned about raising your overall GPA this spring. Your current GPA will be kept intact.
   • You are repeating a course to meet the screening requirement, 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.
   • You are not anticipating any post-graduation plan in which letter grades are required from undergraduate transcripts, e.g., graduate school, professional school, etc.

C. 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.