

From: Case Willoughby
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:42 PM
Subject: SPRING SEMESTER 2020 - ALTERNATIVE GRADE OPTION

Dear Students,

I would like to congratulate you on moving forward under such difficult circumstances. We have worked to provide new supports to you as we have transitioned to remote instruction, and now we have added another.

This new plan will respond to the concerns that, for some, this transition may keep you from earning the grades you normally would through no fault of your own. Further, it will minimize the impact to your grade point average (GPA) on your academic transcript for the Spring 2020 semester.

What does this mean? **After you receive the final grade assigned by your instructor, you will have two weeks to use an option to convert any one or all of your grades from the traditional A B C D F to an alternative grade that will not affect your GPA.**

If you choose this option*:

A's, B's and C's would convert to a newly created alternative grade S* (Satisfactory). This grade would count toward all BC3 requirements but not affect the GPA. You will earn the credits for the course(s).

D's would convert to a newly created alternative grade SD (Satisfactory with D). This would count toward BC3 requirements but not affect the GPA. You will earn the credits for the course(s).

F's would convert to a newly created alternative grade U* (Unsatisfactory). No credits would be awarded, and it would not affect the GPA.

** Because of professional licensure issues, it is highly recommended that students in some programs keep letter grades for their courses. You should discuss with an advisor in your degree program.*

Q & A

Why is the College doing this?

Similar to many institutions across the country, BC3 recognizes that these are not normal times. The transition to remote instruction and personal circumstances arising from the COVID-19 situation are raising stress levels. BC3 wants you to be able to complete the term with a little less worry about grades.

Will courses with these grades transfer to a university?

Assuming the course would be accepted for the institution and degree program to which you are applying, probably yes. Most state and state-related institutions (and many private ones) will accept an "S*" grade as long as the College transcript specifies that the grade is equal to a C or better, which ours

will do. It is the responsibility of the student to reach out to the transfer university to confirm the transferability of the alternative grades.

Why would I want to use this?

A student earning an A would probably not want to use this option, because A's can only strengthen a GPA.

A student earning a B or C would if their GPA is high enough that a B or C would lower it.

A student earning a D or F would probably want to use this option because these grades harm the GPA.

I'm applying for a BC3 Education Foundation Scholarship or am a BC3 Presidential Scholar – can I use this?

The BC3 Education Foundation will not view use of this option punitively.

I'm in or applying for BC3's Nursing or Physical Therapy Assistant Program or I am in another credentialed program – can I use this?

You should discuss with an advisor in your degree program. The answer may vary based on your transcript and which course is in question.

When can I decide to use this option?

You may use this option starting May 6 and no later than May 20, 2020.

If you have more questions, please contact your academic advisor or student success coach. They will do their best to assist you.

All the best,

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