
Grades and New Resources

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 11:13 AM

Dear LSA Students,

We're writing today to express our profound appreciation for the enormous effort you have put into protecting the health and safety of everyone in the University of Michigan community and to provide a few updates on the Winter 2020 grading policy. We also want you to be aware of a new resource for you: lsa-covid-help@umich.edu. If you have questions or concerns, you can email us here, and we will route them to people who can help you get answers.

We know these last few weeks have been terribly unstable, and what we have seen you all work through is more than we ever thought we'd have to ask for. Working together with faculty, GSIs, and staff, you all have helped to shift our giant residential liberal arts college to remote instruction. This achievement rescues what might otherwise have been a lost semester, and helps you to keep going at a time when so much else has come to a halt. Thank you again.

Below are a few important updates, including information on supporting your well-being and the new Winter 2020 grading policy.

Well-being

With two weeks of remote teaching complete, some of the many challenges you all face completing the semester are now clear. We all began the semester together on campus, with you able to visit with us regularly in person, supported by the physical, social, and technological infrastructure of a world class university. The expectations we had for you in January were shaped by the existence of these strong supports.

Now most of you are far away, experiencing environments which often lack the support you had on campus. Some of you are struggling with technology or internet bandwidth, having trouble finding private study spaces, or spending weeks in self-isolation. We can only imagine how difficult this is, and we have asked your faculty to do what they can to help you work through this as well as assist us in providing additional support.

If you feel you're at risk of not being able to complete the semester or have challenges that are making it difficult to learn in this remote environment, we ask you to reach out. **Please send an email to lsa-covid-help@umich.edu**, and we'll work together with you on solutions.

Winter 2020 Grading Policy

A week ago, the provost [announced](#) a new campus-wide "Pass/No Record Covid" grading policy in order to allow students to focus on their learning during this transition to remote teaching formats. While you will all have the option to 'unmask' any of your course grades, we expect most of you will want to retain these P/NRC grades. In addition to the general [grading policy questions/answers](#) regarding grading this term that are on the Registrar's Office website, below is additional information about the grading policy as it relates to LSA-specific degree requirements and information:

- P grades (C- or higher) will meet all course, degree, and graduation requirements.
 - If you choose to unmask a course grade it will be subject to normal degree and graduation requirements.
- **Withdrawals:** You may withdraw from a course until April 21st.
 - For any request to drop a course that was initiated March 10th or later, the W ("withdrawn") will not appear on your official transcript.

- Incompletes: If you are unable to participate in final elements of the course, you can take an Incomplete.
 - You will then be expected to complete any unfinished work by the end of the 4th week in the Fall 2020 term. Once that work is completed and a letter grade is reported, it will be converted to the P/NRC system, and *no record of the incomplete will remain*.

We hope that this course grading policy for Winter 2020 will also be a reminder that grades—in and of themselves—are never the real point. Learning is. This should free you from some of the constraints you might typically feel from grades. Please use this freedom to focus, as much as your circumstances will allow, on your learning.

Thank you again for all you've done, and for the work yet to come.

Take good care,

Anne Curzan, Dean

Tim McKay, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
