

March 25, 2020

Dear PitE Students,

As the faculty director of PitE, I wanted to reach out to you directly to address some questions you may have and provide a few PitE-specific updates.

These are challenging times that have forced all of us to quickly adapt to a new reality. None of us expected to be here, so your instructors and I truly do appreciate your patience, your willingness to engage in new formats, and your resilience in the face of incredible uncertainty. I know that many of you are experiencing additional personal challenges and disappointments. Be sure to be kind to yourselves and each other as we all navigate this new space.

First, I'd like to address some questions we've received about the new Pass/No Record - COVID (P/NRC) grading system that has been instituted by the University. Some have asked whether Pass grades, which correspond to a C- or above, will be counted toward your major or minor. YES, any course that you are taking in Winter 2020 receiving a "P" on your transcript will meet the intended requirement for your major or minor. Your GPA will *not* be affected by either a "P" or a "NRC" designation. You may request that your P/NRC grade be "unmasked" and converted to an actual letter grade on your transcript, which will then be included in your GPA calculation. You have until July 1, 2020 to request grades to be unmasked. Otherwise, the courses on your final transcript will contain the P/NRC designation. If you receive an NRC for a course that you need for either the major or minor, we suggest that you contact your PitE Advisor to discuss the best course of action.

Second, you should have received the announcement that 2020 spring/summer courses will only be offered online. Many of you planned to fulfill your practical experience requirement this summer. We are actively working to identify online courses for the spring/summer terms that will still count for practical experience, as well as exploring options that can count as practical experience during the 2020-21 school year. I know that some of you may be disappointed and frustrated about the need to change your summer plans. As one of the instructors at Camp Davis, I share your disappointment and wish that I had more immediate answers to questions you may have. Please know that we are actively working to ensure that there will be a number of options to fulfill the practical experience requirement. We will share more information as it becomes available.

As always, we encourage you to reach out to our wonderful peer advisors via [BlueJeans](#) during their [office hours](#) for quick questions about registration/classes/specializations. Or you can contact your PitE advisor, either Jaime (jlangdon) or Chris (cpozza), to discuss specific issues or concerns. If there are other ways PitE can help make your life easier, feel free to reach out to me directly with any suggestions.

Be sure to take care of yourself in all of the ways. Stay safe and healthy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelie Miller', with a stylized, cursive script.

Shelie Miller
Director, Program in the Environment

Shelie Miller
Jonathan W. Bulkley Collegiate Professor in Sustainable Systems
Director, [Program in the Environment](#)
Associate Professor, [School for Environment and Sustainability](#)
University of Michigan