

Temporary Pass/Fail and Withdrawal Policy for Fall 2020

Student survey data, a currently circulating student petition, and faculty and staff conversation has made clear that our students are expressing an uncommon level of stress this semester. We are also mindful that the majority of students have not followed the College's recommendation to reduce their course load this semester by rostering a smaller Fall course load and/or by registering for a Winter Term course.

This temporary policy was designed to afford students some flexibility and potentially some immediate stress relief by designating one of their courses as pass/fail. Additionally, we have moved the course withdrawal deadline as late in the semester as possible. Given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 crisis, this policy aims to give students an option that can mitigate their current stress levels and preserve academic progress while recognizing the unique stressors that may be limiting their full achievement.

The temporary policy applies to all students who are enrolled in courses at Muhlenberg College, including the School of Graduate and Continuing Education, during the Fall 2020 semester.

Pass/Fail Option

(1) Students will be allowed to select one course, rostered for the Fall 2020 semester, for which they would like their final grade to be a Pass (P) or Fail (F). A passing grade is defined as earning a D or better in the course. The deadline for this selection will be November 20, 2020.

(2) Any and all courses - including courses counting toward a major, minor, or general academic requirement - can be selected for this P/F option.

(3) Courses taken P/F during the Fall 2020 semester will not count towards the total of three courses that may be taken P/F during a student's academic career.

(4) Students are strongly encouraged to make decisions about converting passing grades to P thoughtfully and in consultation with their advisors and/or instructor. Although typical restrictions on P/F are being waived by Muhlenberg College, taking a P may still have implications for Dean's List, honor societies, and institutions, opportunities, or awards beyond our campus.

(5) If a student selects a P/F option, but later decides to withdraw, they are permitted to do so, but they would not be able to move their P/F option to another course after the deadline. Additionally, once a student selects the P/F option, they would be unable to convert the course back to a letter grade after the P/F decision deadline has passed.

(6) Currently enrolled students may transfer up to one course / one credit taken P/F at another institution during the Fall 2020 semester to their Muhlenberg transcript.

Withdrawal Deadline

(1) The W deadline will be moved to the last day of classes, December 4, 2020.

(2) Any student who has already withdrawn from a course will have the opportunity to re-enroll, if they wish, and delay their choice to withdraw until this deadline, with permission of instructor.