



SMCCCD Academic Senate

Faculty Guidance Memo on Grading

Date: July 24, 2020

To: All District Faculty

CC: Mike Claire, Interim Chancellor, SMCCCD

Dr. Aaron McVean, Vice Chancellor, SMCCCD

Karen Schwarz, President, SMCCCD Board

Dr. Jamillah Moore, President, Cañada College

Dr. Tammy Robinson, VPI, Cañada College

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Dr. Mike Holtzclaw, VPI, College of San Mateo

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From: Jeramy Wallace, President, SMCCCD Academic Senate

Diana Tedone-Goldstone, President, Cañada College Academic Senate

Dr. Arielle Smith, President, College of San Mateo Academic Senate

Leigh Anne Shaw, President, Skyline College Academic Senate

Subject: Faculty Guidance on Summer and Fall 2020 Letter Grade Options

Due to the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic and the continued closure of the District's campuses, the District Academic Senate unanimously decided to continue the letter grade scale from Spring 2020 into the Summer and Fall 2020 semesters. Specifically, the letter grade 'F' will be replaced by the grade of 'No Pass' (NP) for both the summer sessions and the fall semester.

The letter grading scale has been modified to A/B/C/D/NP (+/- grading is still available), and a student who would have received an 'F' grade should be assigned an 'NP' grade, which has the least punitive impact on a student's record.

Please note, 'D' grades can be helpful to students in that they can still count for credit for transfer, Associate degrees, and GE areas, which is why it isn't included as part of the NP options for letter grading. Thus, if you have a student who, with any grading considerations that you are implementing this semester, will earn a 'D' grade, please assign a 'D' as opposed to an 'NP.'

This coming academic year will be challenging for our colleges' students and staff alike, and we want to make sure that we are as compassionate and flexible with our students as possible. Even though the students know they will be taking online courses this fall (and summer), many are still struggling with unemployment/underemployment, childcare issues, homeschooling children, and even sicknesses related to the pandemic.

This pandemic will end, and our colleges will return to normal, but in the meantime, we should try to minimize the harm done to our students during these very trying times.

Further guidance is forthcoming regarding EWs and P/NP options. We are awaiting instruction from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) on Title V relief.