

**Subject:** DAS grading reminders and end of year report  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 9:56:53 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Wallace, Jeramy  
**To:** All Faculty  
**Attachments:** image001.png, SMCCCDAS\_201920\_EOYReport.pdf, DAS\_Grading\_Memo\_COVID.pdf, Student clarification on grading options and deadlines 5-15-20.docx

Colleagues,

I wanted to take a moment to share the District Academic Senate's End-of-Year Report (attached) and to remind you of the changes to the Spring 2020 grading options.

I know many of you are getting questions from students regarding the Spring 2020 grading, and with Counseling departments across the District fully booked, we need to do our best to guide the students. Below, find the options for students and some brief talking points to give your students (forms are linked).

### Student-initiated options

1. Pass/No Pass Grading: **Students only have until May 21<sup>st</sup> to request a grade change to P/NP** using the [Add/Drop](#) form and emailing it to the college's admissions and records department (emails below). This option is no longer available in WebSmart and cannot be initiated by you, so the student must be the one to make the request.

Talking points: while the CSUs are accepting P/NP grades, the UCs are not widely accepting them (so if a student plans to apply to a UC, they may not want to use this option). There are also uncertainties about how P/NP will affect transfer to private and out-of-state universities or how it will affect admissions to graduate and professional schools later down the road. In other words, the P/NP may cause more problems for students than solutions. Students who will likely earn a C in the class may benefit from a P with respect to their GPAs. But when in doubt, students should stay with the letter grade option.

2. Extenuating Circumstances Withdrawal (EW): students can apply for an EW using this [form](#). An EW doesn't count toward probation or dismissal proceedings, and it won't count as an attempt in the class. Students have up to one year to apply for an EW for the Spring 2020, regardless of if they pass the class or not.

Talking point: If a student is on federal financial aid, a veteran on GI benefits, or an international student, an EW could bring their unit count below their thresholds and affect their financial aid, GI bill, visa status or other benefits. Since the students have a year to request the EW, they may want to wait until they can talk to a counselor over the summer to see if this option works for them.

Admissions and Records Emails

- [canadaadmissions@smccd.edu](mailto:canadaadmissions@smccd.edu)
- [csmadmission@smccd.edu](mailto:csmadmission@smccd.edu)
- [skyadmissions@smccd.edu](mailto:skyadmissions@smccd.edu)

### Faculty Grading Options

- At this point in the semester, faculty cannot drop a student nor can we change them to a Pass/No Pass. Students must opt into each of these using the forms above.

- **A/B/C/D/NP grading:** the District Academic Senate has eliminated the F grading option and replaced it with the NP this spring.
  - **A student who earns below a 60% in the course should be assigned an NP.**
  - An NP does not count against a student's GPA, it is not used in probation and dismissal proceedings, and it does not count as an attempt.
  - **A student who earns a D should be assigned a D (Ds are transferable and the credit can count towards an associate's degree).**
  - The NP option should be used for students who "disappeared" this semester.

I hope the above guidance gives you the knowledge necessary to answer your students' questions. I have also attached the Grading Guidance Memo that DAS distributed on April 20<sup>th</sup> and a document prepared by CSM Counselor/Senate President Arielle Smith with further details on the P/NP grading option (just replace CSM with your college).

Have a great week,

Jeremy

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