

Text from the email sent by Provost Blackwell to faculty on March 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, thank you for all you have done to stand up for our University community in the past week. I have been awed and inspired by the incredible work I see our colleagues doing to make things better for our faculty, staff, and students.

If you missed the initial email from Senate Council on Saturday, March 14 you can access that information [here](#) . You can also access an FAQ with answers to many of the questions we expect you might have [here](#).

With this email today, I am forwarding to you a communication that will be distributed to the student body with information on academic policy changes for the Spring 2020 semester.

I forward this communication both to provide you with the same information that will go to students, and also to add some additional guidance about the changes that have been made since the March 14 email.

Please feel free to reach out to my office with any questions.

Regards,

David W. Blackwell  
Provost

Below is information conveyed to students in an email:

- Faculty must communicate all course updates to their students as soon as possible, but **no later than March 31**. This includes changes to grading expectations, course meeting schedules, exams, or any other syllabus change. Faculty should be creative and flexible as they think about what the rest of the semester should look like. In particular, faculty should consider that many students must now move out from their housing next week, move back to their homes (and for some that entails international relocation), and are still sorting out how they will participate in courses remotely. Faculty should be especially attentive to these student challenges during these first few weeks of alternate instruction. For advice on what to consider as they plan the rest of the semester, instructors of record can look [here](#) for more information on changes to spring 2020 syllabi and [here](#) for best practices for communicating with students about this issue .

- Undergraduate students may elect Pass/Fail grading for the Spring 2020 semester for courses that satisfy UK Core requirements, and courses that are elective in their programs. For courses that satisfy program, college, or pre-major requirements, unit faculty must determine whether to allow Pass/Fail grading for those courses. The Senate Council urges unit faculty to make prompt decisions regarding this important question, and to communicate the decision with students as soon as possible. Any Pass/Fail elections permitted under these rules can be made, in consultation with an advisor, until 11:59 pm on May 1.
- Although the original date by which students in programs controlled by the University Calendar had to withdraw from courses was April 3, for Spring 2020, students may withdraw from courses (and have a “W” on their transcript) for any course until 11:59 pm on May 1.

The Senate Council encourages the unit faculty of the professional and graduate programs to consider whether they wish to change the withdrawal date or allow Pass/Fail grading in their programs for the Spring 2020 semester.