

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

Dear Students,

I write to you in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis for our country and our community.

We have a responsibility to do everything we can, not only to protect the health and well-being of our community, but also to be part of our collective national and state effort to “flatten the curve” and mitigate the impact of COVID 19.

I am confident that this is a crisis we – and our University – will emerge from together.

To that end, I want to offer both comfort and information that will help guide you as we navigate our important teaching and learning mission for the next several weeks.

I hope there is comfort in the knowledge that thousands of people are working across our campus to provide aid, guidance, and education over the next weeks.

Everyone at UK is committed to your success.

Your faculty, represented by the Senate Council, has acted quickly to change several educational policies in response to this public health challenge. With the leadership of Senate Council Chair Jennifer Bird-Pollan and Student Government President Michael Hamilton, we are working to modify a number of educational policies for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester as we transition to online and alternative delivery platforms for teaching.

Here’s the latest information, which applies to Spring 2020 only:

- The deadline to withdraw from a course for the Spring 2020 semester was previously April 3. The new deadline to withdraw from a course is now 11:59 pm on May 1.
- The deadline to convert an undergraduate elective course to Pass/Fail grading for the Spring 2020 was previously February 5. That deadline is now 11:59 pm on May 1.
- Students may not typically select Pass/Fail grading for courses used to satisfy UK Core Requirements. For the Spring 2020 semester, that limitation is waived, and students may select Pass/Fail grading for courses in UK Core. That decision must be made by 11:59 pm on May 1.
- Students may not typically select Pass/Fail grading for any course used to satisfy an undergraduate program or college requirement. Program and college faculty are making unit-level decisions about those requirements and the availability of Pass/Fail grading. Contact your advisor for more information.

- Students will have to exercise the options described here in consultation with their advisors. Please contact your advisor to select Pass/Fail grading for any of the courses for which it is available.
- Graduate students and professional students should be ready for more information from their respective colleges and programs regarding what options will be available for grading and withdrawal in their programs.
- Instructors of record are being asked to communicate all changes regarding syllabi (including changes to grading, assignments, exams, or other syllabus elements) no later than March 31.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones, and do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for help or information. If you are an undergraduate student, you should direct any additional questions to your academic advisor. If you are a graduate student, you should direct any additional questions to your Director of Graduate Studies.

As the University of, for, and with Kentucky, we will get through this together. We are doing everything we can to care for your well-being and facilitate your educational success in this unprecedented time. Please know that we are here for you.

Sincerely,

David W. Blackwell
Provost