SUNY SCHENECTADY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Guidance for Spring 2020/Full Year Grading Policies

Pass/Fail Opt-In Considerations

Please discuss with your Parents, Guidance Counselor and/or Instructor before making a final decision. Depending on your future college plans, there are many items to consider in your decision to choose the Pass/Fail option for a course.

Please note any Pass/Fail Opt-In forms submitted by a College in the High School student will be sent to the school district for additional follow up.

To: This document is for students enrolled in a College in the High School Spring 2020 semester course (Registration occurred in February 2020 - 3rd & 4th Quarter Courses) and full year courses (Registration occurred in September 2019 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter Courses)

Student enrolled in a SUNY Schenectady Early College Program (Smart Scholars, Smart Transfer or Capital Region P-Tech) must meet with a program staff member prior to making their decision.

About: Information you need before opting into the Pass/Fail grading option for any of your courses.

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Here is what you need to know:

1. SUNY Schenectady is offering all Spring 2020/Full Year students the option to choose how you want your final grade to appear on your transcript. You can choose this for one or more of your courses. Your choices for each course are:
    i. No change
       You will receive an A – F grade as indicated in the syllabus for each course.
    ii. Pass/Fail
       You will receive a P indicating a grade between A and D- (as indicated in the syllabus for each course) or you will receive a grade of F. Neither the P nor the F grade will be calculated into your overall GPA.

2. To opt into the Pass/Fail grading model for one or more courses, you will complete and submit a form that will require the CRN, the course subject, the course number, the section number, and the course title that you want graded as either Pass (P) or Fail (F) on your transcript. For example:

CRN	COURSE SUBJECT	COURSE NUMBER	SECTION NUMBER	COURSE TITLE
90675	ACC	122	1	Managerial Accounting

Submit the "Request for Alternate Pass/Fail Grading Form" no later than Friday, July 17, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Once you submit the form, you may change your decision by resubmitting the form at any time prior to July 17th.

Please note any Pass/Fail Opt-In forms submitted by a College in the High School student will be sent to the school district for additional follow up.

Here is what you need to consider:

➢ High School vs. College Transcript

- o Students should consider the following, when making their decision to opt into Pass/Fail grading. Your high school transcript grade does not have to be the same grade that is on your college transcript. College grades for CHS courses are specifically used to transfer credits, therefore the better option may be to have a letter grade on your college transcript. Remember colleges and universities only use your letter grade to determine if they will accept the credits. Your grade does not transfer, only the credits.

Talk to your parents, guidance counselor or instructor.

➢ Your GPA.

- o If you opt into the Pass/Fail grading model and you enroll in SUNY Schenectady, those courses will not be calculated into your GPA.
- o If you enroll in SUNY Schenectady and need to raise your GPA in order to qualify for graduation or transfer, be aware that opting in for the Pass/Fail model for a course will not raise (or lower) your GPA.
- o Some licensing/certification may be impacted by choosing the Pass/Fail model.

Talk to your parents, guidance counselor or instructor.

- ➢ **Transfer to other colleges.**
  - ○ If you plan to transfer your CHS credits to a two-year or a four-year college or any other college beyond SUNY Schenectady, you must consider your program requirements. In many cases, if you plan to transfer, it will be important to consider the ways in which choosing the Pass/Fail model may impact admissions and the acceptance of transfer courses.

  - ○ Be sure to speak with your school counselor or instructor about this option and its wider implications, especially for those of you enrolled in a Year-Long course at your high school, and your instructor has been assigning letter grades throughout the academic year, and the course is largely complete. Then it might NOT make sense to opt for a pass/fail grade given the greater risks with transfer credit recognition.

  - ○ Your transfer school may restrict the number of Pass/Fail courses allowed.

Talk to your parents, guidance counselor or instructor.

- ➢ **The courses in your major.**
  - ○ Depending on your future college plans and program selection, some courses might be fine for the Pass/Fail grading model such as electives or even SUNY general education courses, but other courses, often courses in your major area of study, may not be. Therefore, each course should be considered on its own.

Talk to your parents, guidance counselor or instructor!

Please complete the opt-in [form here]().

For additional information, please contact:

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