The Graduate Council approved a pass/fail grading accommodation at its March 2021 meeting for graduate students during the spring 2021 semester. A copy is attached. This accommodation is based on the undergraduate grading accommodation issued by interim chancellor Mitchelson on March 8th, 2021 and revised to suit the needs of graduate students. Not all programs will be able to implement the pass/fail accommodation due to accreditation requirements or other necessary curricular restrictions.

The discussion at the March 15th Graduate Council meeting regarding the pass/fail option was robust. The graduate student body was represented by Gianna Venero, the GPSS Executive Board member who holds a seat on the Graduate Council, Emma Goldberg, current President of the GPSS, and Zoe Terwilliger, co-chair of the Grad PIRATE Talks. We know that pandemic experiences are affecting students’ lives and for some, these experiences will impact their ability to function at their highest potential. We encourage faculty show flexibility this semester and recognize that some students will need this accommodation when they don’t have other better options.

We strongly encourage students to speak with their course instructors and graduate program directors to determine 1) if the pass/fail option is available for their courses and 2) how a grade of P in lieu of a grade of A, B, or C might impact their future. If you are a student finding that you simply can’t keep up, contact the ECU Center for Counseling and Student Development (CCSD). If needed, the Dean of Students or Dr. Kathleen Cox, Associate Dean in the Graduate School, are available to answer your questions about the P/F grading accommodation or advise you on other options.

Please review the policy carefully and discuss your status in your courses with your academic advisor and course instructors. We expect you will continue to complete your work to the best of your ability and will make the pass/fail decision only after courses have ended and you have a chance to consult with your academic advisor about your grades. Your advisor’s approval is needed for a pass/fail decision to be finalized in your record. Please review the accommodation for the deadlines for both pass/fail and withdrawals.

We applaud your efforts for doing all you can to finish strong this semester!