



USHE Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alternative Course Delivery and Grading Options

USHE institutions considered and implemented several measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the system, the institutions united on the decision to move all courses and instruction to alternate delivery modes, like virtual classrooms and labs. All institutions also implemented safe social distancing in places on campus that need to remain open to students and staff. Additionally, where possible, some institutions were able to:

- Distribute laptops and e-readers, expand WiFi, and still offer services in places like libraries to assist students without access to technology or internet connections in their homes, utilizing prearranged social distancing measures
- Grant students the option to convert traditional letter grades to credit/no credit (i.e., “pass,” or “fail”) for certain spring 2020 courses
- Extend their withdrawal deadlines

The option for alternative grades will include Concurrent Enrollment courses in alignment with their college academic departments. If a student taking Concurrent Enrollment opts for one of these alternative grades during Spring Semester 2020, that grade will be recorded on both the higher education institution transcript and the high school transcript.

Students considering admission into competitive undergraduate majors or graduate programs should seek advice from an academic counselor to ensure that a pass/credit grade will be accepted in place of a letter grade.

Admissions and Institutional Scholarships

Many high schools have also moved to pass/fail grades during 2020, and several standardized exams like the ACT and SAT have been canceled or postponed. USHE institutions will still be observing their usual admissions criteria but will hold students harmless if they have pass/credit grades, rather than traditional letter grades, included in their high school transcript for 2020.

Regents' and New Century Scholarships

Since high school pass/credit grades will not harm students' cumulative GPA, Regents' and New Century Scholarship applications will still follow the requirements posted at www.regentsscholarship.org and www.newcenturyscholarship.org.

Early Release from Volunteer Service

Students who have been released early from voluntary service, religious missions, military service, or other engagements, and people who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic, should contact their college and university as soon as possible to find out about admissions/re-enrolling and scholarship opportunities. Several institutions are expanding admissions deadlines to accommodate people unexpectedly returning to school because of the pandemic.