SUPPLEMENT: YALE COLLEGE POLICY CHANGES FOR SPRING 2020

(From information available June 1, 2020)

REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING
Faculty and students were notified that remote, online teaching and learning would begin on March 23, 2020, and continue through the end of the spring term.

REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF UNIVERSAL PASS/FAIL
For the spring term of 2020, Yale College adopted a grading policy of universal Pass/Fail.

• Instructors had the usual option to provide narrative commendations. For this term, however, the commendation field accepted longer comments. Students received an email notification and were then able to access the comments through SIS. Narrative commendations were strongly encouraged, but not required. Instructors prepared the commendations with the understanding that students could read them and share them with others. The commendations do not appear on the student transcripts.

• Transcripts carry the following explanatory note about the universal Pass/Fail policy for the spring 2020 term: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, full-term courses and second-half courses graded with a mandatory Pass or Fail. First-half term courses graded under standard policy.

• Students could request a grade of Pass for courses that they were unable to complete, providing that they had submitted sufficient work to warrant the Pass.

• Grades for the spring term were not factored into the calculation of General Honors, Distinction in the Major, departmental prizes, or other awards. For graduating seniors, Dean Chun asked the faculty to use other criteria to recognize graduating seniors based on their achievements in prior terms and up to the spring recess of the spring 2020 term.

• For purposes of calculating Distinction in the Major, the College assumed a filler grade of A or A– for the senior essay for all students. This filler grade was not counted in the GPA nor did it appear on the transcript; it was assumed simply for purposes of calculating Distinction in the Major.

• The centrally-managed Wrexham, Porter, and Field prizes were not awarded to undergraduates for the 2019–2020 academic year. Instead, the Porter and Field prizes plan to run two competitions in the 2020–2021 academic year, one for the class of 2020 and one for the class of 2021. The Sudler prize went forward as planned.

• Letter grades assigned for first-half term courses remained on the transcript.

• Two-term senior essays were graded as follows:
  • If students had received a letter grade for the fall term of their senior essays, that grade remained on their transcripts.
  • If students received a grade of SAT or NSAT for the fall term of their senior essays, they would ordinarily get the same grade—in this case, either Pass or Fail—for both terms of the course. Given the circumstances, instructors were given the option to report a letter grade for the fall term, if they felt this was appropriate, and then either Pass or Fail for the spring term. If instructors did not report a grade for the fall term, the default grade for that term was Pass or Fail.

  • For students earning the Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees, courses taken under the Yale College universal Pass/Fail policy were counted toward the bachelor’s and master’s degree requirements.

REGARDING COURSE WITHDRAWALS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

• The deadline for course withdrawals without a W was extended from the midterm deadline to 5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2020, the last day of finals. If students needed a W to maintain full-time enrollment, which is required of all students, that was arranged through communication with their residential college dean. (Full-time enrollment in Yale College for Spring 2020 was minimally two course credits that carried a mark of Pass or Fail and one course credit of W.)

• Students who withdrew from a course during the week prior to midterm (March 6) were permitted to undo that withdrawal. Students who withdrew from a course more than one week before that midterm date and subsequently wished to reenroll were required to obtain approval from the course instructor.

• The College worked with seniors, allowing, where appropriate, qualifying students to apply acceleration credits toward the 36-course credit degree requirement.

• All non-graduating students with a course credit deficiency resulting from a post-midterm course withdrawal were promoted to the next year’s standing despite the deficit, as long as they were otherwise in academic good standing.

REGARDING THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT AND WITHDRAWAL FROM A LANGUAGE COURSE

• If non-seniors decided to withdraw from a language course that would have completed their Language Requirement (LR), and if that course is not offered in the fall, students were given two options:
  • In the fall term, they might meet the LR by completing a course credit in a third language—neither English nor that of the course they dropped—at any level for which they qualify. For example, instead of L1 + L2 + L3 French, they might take L1 + L2 French + Lx Spanish.
• In the fall term, students might meet the LR by completing a course credit in a culture course relevant to the language. For example, they might take L1 + L2 French + “France since 1871” (conducted in English).

REGARDING DEADLINES
Instructors could postpone the submission of course work until the final day of the term, May 6, 2020. Any student wishing an extension beyond May 6 required authorization from their residential college dean for a Temporary Incomplete.

REGARDING REINSTATEMENT
The Committee on Reinstatement planned to accept online courses offered in summer 2020 for the purpose of applying for reinstatement to Yale College for the fall 2020 term and the spring 2021 term. Online courses taken outside of Yale had to be offered by an accredited, four-year, B.A.-granting college or university and had to include regular, synchronous interaction with the instructor, as well as regular instructor feedback.