



April 24, 2020

Message to Black Hawk College Students

Over the past several weeks Black Hawk College has been monitoring the changing dynamics of higher education as a result of COVID-19. Recently, dialogue at the state level has included providing students flexibility in grading options due to the statewide move to online instruction. Yesterday (Thursday, April 23), the Black Hawk College faculty and administration approved the following options for students* for Spring 2020:

Extended Withdrawal Option:

Students will be able to withdraw from one or more courses through Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

This option will allow students the opportunity to review grades that are posted and determine whether or not they would prefer to have a W grade as opposed to the letter grade earned. If you choose to withdraw from a course, you will not receive credit for that course. A W grade (withdrawal) does not negatively impact a student's grade point average (GPA); however, it does reflect on a student's transcript as an attempted course, which counts toward a student's overall percentage of course completion. Students receiving financial aid and considering a W grade in lieu of an A/B/C/D/F grade, are strongly encouraged to speak with the Financial Aid Office prior to requesting a W to determine the potential impact on satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as well as other financial aid status implications.

If you are seeking a withdrawal or W for a Spring 2020 course or courses, please e-mail registrar@bhc.edu from your myBlackHawk email account and provide your student ID number along with the name of the course or courses you are seeking to withdraw from. Withdrawals will only be processed from requests submitted from your secured myBlackHawk email account.

Pass/Fail Grade Option:

Students will be permitted to opt for a Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade for individual courses taken during Spring 2020 only through Wednesday, May 20, 2020. For Spring 2020, a Pass (P) grade is a C or higher and Fail (F) grade is a D or lower. The benefit of a Pass (P) option is that the P grade is not calculated into a student's cumulative GPA, which means your GPA will not go up or down based on the course(s) you have opted to accept a P grade. Because there are various implications related to transfer institutions, as well as, selective admissions programs, and because this option is irrevocable, students will be **required** to meet/discuss this option with an advisor prior to a Pass/Fail option being implemented. It is important to note that courses with a grade of P may not be accepted when applying to some graduate school programs and the course may need to be repeated (medical school and veterinary school are just two examples).

The P/F Opt-in form is obtained only from an Educational Advisor and will require the student to acknowledge the following implications:

- This request is irrevocable once it is submitted by the student;
- The grade of Pass (P) = C or higher and the grade of Fail (F) = D or lower;
- The **P grade is not used** in computing the cumulative grade point average at the College (GPA will not go up or down with a P grade);
- The **F grade is used** in computing the cumulative grade point average at the College;

- Many certification, licensure and professional and potential future graduate programs require minimum A, B, C grades for coursework, and opting-in to a P grade during Spring 2020 semester may undermine admission or success in future academic programs;
- There is **no guarantee** as to how another institution will transfer in a P grade from a course that typically requires an A, B, C grade;
- Current or future scholarship eligibility should be considered by the student prior to opt-in;
- Athletic eligibility implications should be discussed between the student and BHC Athletic Department;
- Final grades during Minimester and the first 8-week session may not be included in this opt-in request.

We appreciate your patience throughout these trying times, and we hope the options provided above prove to offer each of you with optimal flexibility in light of these unprecedented times.

Most respectfully,

Amy Maxeiner, EdD, PT
Vice President for Instruction

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Vice President for Student Services

**Dual credit high school students will receive additional information related to processes and implications unique to this population.*