

Non-punitive Grading for Spring Semester Classes

(16 week, 12 week, and Second Mini session classes)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and based on guidance provided by the US Department of Education, Cape Fear Community College will adopt the following grading protocol for all spring classes in which students were enrolled after March 13, the date of the federal emergency declaration in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This new grading protocol applies to all classes in the 16 week, 12 week, and second mini sessions of the Spring 2020 semester. Spring semester classes that concluded before March 13 are not subject to the new grading protocol.

Students who withdrew from a class after March 13; stopped participating in a class; or who do not earn a grade of A, B, C, D, PA, PB, or PC for a class will be assigned a grade of WE (Withdrawal Emergency) for that class. WEs will not count against students' satisfactory academic progress (SAP) for financial aid eligibility or toward grade point average (GPA) calculation.

Students who earn a grade of D for a class in one of the spring semester sessions listed above may request that this D be converted to a WE after the end of the Spring semester if doing so serves to advance their academic goals and/or maintain their desired GPA. Requesting the conversion of a D to a WE for a class may prevent a student from using that class to satisfy prerequisite and program completion requirements. Students who received a grade of D for a class in the first mini session of the spring semester may not request a conversion to WE.

Students who are unable to complete a class due to circumstances relating to the COVID-19 crisis may also request a temporary grade of Incomplete Emergency (IE). A student must request an IE from his or her instructor at least three days prior to the last day of the class. To be eligible for an IE, a student must have completed at least 60% of the coursework for the class with a minimum average of 76 (C) for the work completed. In classes where students were not able to access clinical sites, accreditor-required laboratory experiences, or WBL placement opportunities due to the COVID-19 crisis, the instructor will determine student eligibility to request an IE. The instructor will determine what remaining coursework the student must complete in order to attain the learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will also determine the date by which a student must complete the remaining coursework. If a student is unable to finish the remaining coursework by the date determined by the instructor, the temporary grade of IE will convert to a grade of F.

It is our intention that this new grading protocol will serve to avoid penalizing students whose studies were disrupted this semester due to the COVID-19 crisis while rewarding those students who are able to complete one or more of their spring semester classes successfully.