SPRING 2020 GRADING FAQs

Q. Has Florida A&M University College of Law adopted alternative grading options for the Spring 2020 semester.
A: Yes. Like many law schools around the country FAMU Law faculty approved an alternative grading option for Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The full scope of the approved grading option was sent via email to all students on March 30, 2020 from Interim Dean Nicola Boothe-Perry and is also posted on the Registrar’s webpage via this link https://law.famu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPRING-2020-GRADING-POLICY.pdf.

Q: How will the Spring 2020 grading policy affect me if I am on academic probation?
A: Students on academic probation at the end of Fall 2019 will be able to continue so long as they receive at least an “S” in every course. If you are on academic probation and you receive a “U” in any course, you will be required to meet with the Academic Standards Committee before proceeding to the next semester.

Q: If I was in good standing at the end of Fall 2019, can I end up on probation as a result of my Spring 2020 grades?
A: No. No new determinations of probation or academic good standing will be made for Spring 2020.

Q: Will rankings be conducted at the end of the Spring 2020 semester?
A: Spring 2020 graduates will receive graduation ranking based on all courses taken at the College of Law. Rankings for all other students will be conducted in January 2021.

Q: Will employers understand why I received “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” grades?
A: Probably. Law schools across the country are adopting alternative grading policies similar to those adopted by FAMU Law. Moreover, there will be a notation on all transcripts to notify potential employers of the alternative grading policies adopted during the Spring 2020 semester in response to the challenges associated with COVID-19.

Q: Can I still earn graduation honors under this temporary grading system?
A: Yes. Students graduating in May 2020 will be eligible for Latin Honors (cum laude, etc.) based on their cumulative grade point average attained at the end of Fall 2019.

Q: My employer currently pays for the classes I am enrolled in. What effect might changing to the alternative grading option have on me?
A: You should contact your employer and seek clarity and guidance on the requirements prior to making your decision.
Q: Do I have to change all my classes to the alternative grading option?
A: No. Students may choose which courses will receive a grade or alternate grade on a class-by-class basis. In other words, students may select the alternative grading for one course, some courses, all courses or none of their courses. If students do not elect the alternative grade, the grade submitted by the faculty member will be recorded as the final grade.

Q: Has the course withdrawal deadline been extended for the Spring 2020 Semester?
A: Yes. The course withdrawal deadline has been extended to April 24, 2020. Any "W" grade received during Spring 2020 will not count towards the maximum number of course withdrawals of five (5) permitted during matriculation at FAMU.

Q. When can I decide if I want the letter grade or S/U option?
A: After law faculty submit their final grades to the College of Law Registrar’s Office students can then decide their grading option for the Spring 2020 semester.

Q. Can I change my mind after I make the choice for letter grade or S/U option?
A: No. Students can make the one-time choice for the S/U option per course Once students choose their grading option for any course, that official grade will be recorded to the student’s academic record.

Q. Will I be able to satisfy my upper level writing requirement if I choose the S/U option?
A: Any written project submitted Spring 2020 semester, in satisfaction of the upper level writing requirement will be evaluated for compliance with quality expectations for the upper level writing requirement, by the assigned faculty member and the associate dean for academic affairs consistent with the expectations of the College of Law irrespective of the receipt of a letter or S/U grade.