ACADEMIC POLICY SPRING 2020 COVID-19 GRADING POLICY

Grading Policy:

Issue: Philander Smith College (PSC) is committed to providing an excellent academic experience. Spring semester 2020 has been over shadowed with the rapid attack of COVID-19 across the nation. The establishment of an alternate grading system is desired while we are experiencing an unprecedented condition of on-line courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current grading policy: PSC current grading scale consists of the following:

Grade	Rating	Grade Point	Grade	Rating	Grade
A	Excellent	4	I	Deferred Credit	NA
B	Good	3	TR	Credit	NA
C	Average	2	W	Withdrawn	NA
D	Passed	1			
F	Failure	0			

Philander Smith College awards an "I" grade when students are unable to complete all course requirements for reasons beyond their control, and when students are unable to meet their financial obligations to the institution during the semester in which they are enrolled. In cases where the incomplete grade is given for academic reasons, the "I" grade must be removed by the end of the semester immediately following the semester in which the grade was received. Failure to do so will result in the "I" grade automatically changing to an "F" grade. A student must earn at least a "C" in College Reading, College English, Composition I, Composition II, Math Foundations, College Math, and College Algebra at the College in order to pass the required general education courses as well as in their major courses.

Proposed Change:

Grade	Rating	Grade Point	Grade	Rating	Grade
A	Excellent	4	I	Deferred Credit	NA
B	Good	3	TR	Credit	NA
C	Average	2	W	Withdrawn	NA
D	Passed	1	P/F	Pass/ Fail	NA
F	Failure	0			

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changing to an "F" grade. A student must earn at least a "C" in College Reading, College English, Composition I, Composition II, Math Foundations, College Math, and College Algebra at the College in order to pass the required general education courses as well as in their major courses.

The PSC forward initiative is committed to the advancement of our student—intellectually, culturally, emotionally, and under the guides of Social Justice. PSC students are compassionate achievers devoted to the mission of the College. In a moment of upheaval and crisis, the college is committed to being as flexible and agile as we hope our students are and can be. Students should be thoughtful about their decisions for grade preferences. Faculty and academic advisors should provide students with as much information as possible to help students make the best choice for their situation.

Proposed Process:

1. Faculty will need to record letter grades for all students as usual.
2. The implementation of the Pass (P) grade can be an option for students.
3. The Office of the Registrar will make changes to the Jenzabar grading system to have a P (Pass) as an option for a grade.
4. Students who elect to have a P in any course instead of a passing letter grade, would send the request to their instructor by the close of business **on the last day of class**. The P grade would be equivalent to the following grades: A, B, or C. A grade of D would also be considered passing if the course historically accepts this grade as passing.
5. Students would have the option of choosing to make a course Pass/Fail or a letter grade on an individual course basis. Students would be able to opt for a letter grade in one course and a Pass/Fail in another course.
6. In instances where courses have licensure concerns, the Dean or a designee would be required to validate the option for Pass/Fail and could declare that the option is not available for a specific course.
7. A "Pass" would not factor into the GPA but would count toward earned semester hours and toward curricular, matriculation, and graduation requirements.
8. A "Fail" would factor into the GPA negatively.
9. Generally, grades of A, B, C would be considered as a "Pass". In courses where a D is a letter grade option, the D would also be considered as a "Pass." (can be deleted or remain as a reinforcement)
10. Assignment of a "Pass" would be consistent with the current criteria for letter grades, e.g., a letter grade of A, B, C, would count as a "Pass" if such has been the case historically. In instances where a C grade or D grade has not historically counted as a "Pass" (in General Education and respective academic units, for example), a "Pass" would result from a grade of C or better. (can be deleted or remain as a reinforcement)
11. Students would not be able to reverse the letter grade option once the deadline has passed or the final grade has been submitted by the instructor.

12. Students could not revert Pass/Fail grades to letter grades once grades have been posted.
13. Students could not earn an Incomplete Pass/Fail grade.
14. All transcripts would include a notation explaining the use of Pass/Fail for the Spring 2020 semester and articulating the COVID-19 pandemic as a major disruption to the academic experience and cause for the grade designation.
15. Students on academic probation who elect the Pass option will remain on academic probation provided they pass their courses, since they cannot raise their GPA with Pass grades.