

Dear Students,

At mid-semester I want to remind you about the options you have for alternate grading (satisfactory/pass/no pass) and course withdrawals. I also want to update you on our academic action (probation/suspension/dean's list) policies for this spring.

### Reminder about Alternate Grading and Course Withdrawals

As was announced by Provost Granberg on [10/26/2020](#), you have an **Alternate Grading (satisfactory/pass/no pass) option available**. You will be able to see your final grades before deciding whether to make this alternate grading choice and then you will be able to select up to **two** classes to apply this option. You also have until the last day of classes to **withdraw** from a class this semester (*May 5th for main campus*).

Details about the Alternate Grading Option may be found [here](#). The alternate grading option request form for spring will open on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** and you will be able to access the form at <http://infocenter.rit.edu>. We recommend that you make your selections by **May 16** so that end of semester processing factors in your adjusted GPA. The adjusted GPA is necessary for degree certification for spring graduates as well as probation, suspension and dean's list review for all students.

Please take a moment to review the Alternate Grading [FAQ](#), and pay special attention to Q9, which updates our procedure for dealing with classes that have "C-" or better prerequisites and alternate grades of "PE", where the underlying grade was a "D". In this case, the "PE" grade will NOT satisfy a "C-" or better prerequisite for a course.

### Update on Academic Actions

Based on student input, recommendations from the Spring Semester Academic Planning Committee, and endorsement from the Academic Senate, the following modifications to the Academic Action Policy for fall and spring semesters of this academic year are in place:

- **Modify the parameters for Dean's List** to include nine credits of traditionally graded coursework, registration and completion of at least 12 credit hours, and a GPA of 3.40 or greater with no NE, Incomplete, D or F grades.
- **Academic warning letter** will be sent where a student's overall academic record or specific distribution of grades for fall or spring semester raises concern about the student's trajectory and future success and progress toward the degree.
- **Following the [academic action policy](#)**, students will be placed on probation if the cumulative or term grade point average falls below 2.0 for undergraduates and program or term grade point average falls below 3.0 for graduate students. This will be based on the adjusted GPAs after alternate grading options have been selected. **Students should make these selections by May 16<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Academic suspensions will be relaxed:** Suspensions following the spring semester will be invoked by department chairs/heads in special and exceptional circumstances,

including those listed below. This allows students some clemency and recognizes the pressures placed on students due to the pandemic. Probation would take the place of suspension and a probation letter will inform the student about their academic standing and the need to raise their GPA.

### **Academic Suspension: Specific Circumstances**

- Students who meet the criteria for a 2nd consecutive probation (excluding last spring semester) will be reviewed by the department chair/head and action taken regarding suspension. Per policy, in those cases when a suspension is applied, a student can appeal that suspension decision. In addition, department chairs/heads have the option to waive the suspension and/or apply it for one semester rather than an entire year.
- Students who have been readmitted to a program with specific readmission conditions that have not been met will be reviewed by the department chair/head to determine if a suspension should be applied.

If you have further questions about these policies, please direct them to [registrar@rit.edu](mailto:registrar@rit.edu). Best wishes for a successful completion of the semester and a great summer.

**Joe Loffredo** | Associate Vice President and Registrar

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