



MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Bloomington

To: Indiana University Maurer School of Law Community
From: Dean Austen Parrish
Date: March 26, 2020
Subject: Spring 2020 Grading Policies

The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in a public health emergency that has required the Maurer School of Law to move to remote instruction for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. The implications for our students—because of the public health emergency and the shift to remote instruction—are significant. A large number of U.S. law schools have moved to mandatory satisfactory/fail approaches, with reports that many more will take that approach before the end of the week. The Student Bar Association submitted a proposal to adopt mandatory satisfactory/fail grading and, in a survey conducted by the SBA, the majority of students also favored that approach.

In light of the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the faculty has adopted a Spring 2020 Grading Policy that includes the following:

- All courses taught at the Maurer School of Law during the spring 2020 semester shall be graded on a S/F basis. All letter grade requirements are waived and will be satisfied by a grade of S in spring 2020 courses.
- The Law School has a small number of students who must receive letter grades to remain eligible for scholarships or to remain in good standing with their sponsoring institutions (e.g., students sponsored by the U.S. military or foreign governments and some joint degree programs). Grading using S/F would impose a significant hardship in these contexts when required by an outside institution. These students may petition the Associate Dean of Students, who shall consult with the Executive Associate Dean, for an exemption from this policy, which shall be presumptively granted. Grades for the spring 2020 semester shall not affect any student's GPA, nor be included in determinations of class rank.
- In the event that a student does not, or cannot, meet or complete the requirements of a course for the Spring 2020 semester, that a grade of "I" for Incomplete may be assigned, requiring the student, together with the faculty member, to develop a plan for completion of the requirements of the course.
- This policy applies only to law school courses. Law students enrolled in courses within other units of the university should consult the policies of those units for information about timing, delivery, and grading of those courses.

In addition to these change, the Law School shall request that all transcripts be annotated to indicate that spring 2020 grades reflect the law school's policy in response to the current public health emergency, rather than student choice. If such annotation is not possible, the Executive Associate Dean shall determine a method to provide students official documentation of this policy.

The Dean will collaborate with other law schools to secure one-time exceptions to requirements of the Order of the Coif, the ABA, state bar examiners, or other entities to the extent they continue to impose any limits on the number of courses a student may take on a P/F or S/F basis. We have already received some indication of the loosening of these requirements as most law schools move to mandatory S/F or P/F grading. The Executive Associate Dean and Associate Dean of Students shall also collaborate with the Career Services Office and consult law schools around the country that have also adopted a mandatory S/F or P/F system to help explain the reasons for this policy to employers and to encourage employers to find useful methods for evaluating our students' eligibility for employment.

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