

COVID-19 April 21st update

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Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 12:34**To:** 0-PCA Staff (Paris); 0-PCA Faculty (Current); 0-PCA Students (Current)

Dear Members of the PCA Community,

We are now starting the second to last week of classes, and some critiques start this Friday. We know that the adaptation to on-line teaching and learning has not always been easy, and that life in confinement challenges us in new ways. In response to a petition from students, we have decided to minimize the stress created by final exams by allowing students the choice to request a Pass/Fail rather than a letter grade. If you chose the Pass/Fail option, your transcript will indicate a P* or F* rather than a letter grade, and your academic standing will be carried over from the Fall 2019 semester (i.e., your Fall 2019 cumulative GPA will be considered to be your current GPA). The choice of Pass/Fail versus letter grade will be for all of your courses, not course by course.

What does the Pass/Fail option mean for students?

Carefully consider the possible implications for choosing pass/fail rather than a letter grade with your home institution (if you are a visiting student), education loan providers, internship sites, potential graduate schools, etc. If you receive financial assistance from PCA, your fall 2019 cumulative GPA will be considered the current GPA and taken into account for continued merit-based financial assistance. If you choose pass/fail your spring 2020 semester grades will not be taken into account in your cumulative GPA at graduation and therefore will not affect the loan forgiveness calculation. Once you've carefully considered the two options, declare your preference for pass/fail or a letter grade by Thursday of next week, April 30th, by completing this [form](#). If we do not hear from you, you will receive a letter grade. Once you have made a choice, it is irreversible. Until the April 30th deadline all students will have a temporary "Miscellaneous Hold" on their accounts. Once the deadline for making a choice has passed we will lift that hold and you will be able to see grades as they are being entered.

Link to the form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwoXjXTiCT7jQXGDbgY_K69qV91w_PJ_MiQdePVJ4YYPkddhg/viewform

What does the Pass/Fail option mean for faculty?

Since some students will require a manual conversion of letter grades into pass/fail, grade entry will be organized differently this semester and you will receive a form from the Registrar into which to enter your grades. You will receive an email with a link to the form next week. The deadlines for submitting grades remain unchanged: Thursday May 7th for graduating students and Friday May 15th for the rest of the student body.

As well, to help you manage this exceptionally stressful end of year, we encourage you to make use of the mental health resources that are available through PCA and other English-language providers in Paris as outlined in today's email from the Wellness committee.

For returning students, we will start advising into Fall courses in the next couple of weeks, so if you do not have your fall schedule, do not worry about being late! Your department chair will be in touch soon.

As always, we are happy to answer questions.

Stay well and stay in touch,

Linda Jarvin, PhD

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