

## SPRING 2021 SPECIAL GRADING POLICY PROVISIONS

This semester has presented all students a number of challenges related to the COVID 19 pandemic. To alleviate impacts on students' academic success, the following is a policy on final grades that will be implemented in Spring 2021 **for both undergraduate and graduate, full- and part-time students.**

Students will have the opportunity to select **ONE course** (including Rutgers-Newark courses) in which to receive a non-letter grade designation. Students will be able to identify the courses after the actual letter grades are posted. Guidelines for grade changes are as follows:

For both undergraduate and graduate students, a grade of F will have the ability to be changed to NAD (not for academic credit). Students with an NAD designation in a course will have the ability to repeat the course as many times as the policy allows as if the Spring 2021 registration in the course never occurred.

A grade of D in an undergraduate course or C in a graduate course will have the ability to be changed to AC (academic credit). Courses shown on the transcript as AC will count towards graduation/degree completion provided the student does not need a higher grade as a prerequisite for subsequent courses and/or, if the course is a graduate-level one, it is not a core course in the graduate program.

A grade of C or higher in an undergraduate course or B or higher in a graduate course could be changed to P (pass).

**Grades of Incomplete** when substituted with an actual grade **will not be changed** to any of the NAD, AC, or P designation. The actual letter grade will remain unchanged.

The Academic Standing of students will be determined by the term and cumulative GPA appearing on the students' transcript after the spring special grading policy is applied. Specifically, courses with NAD, AC, or P designation will have no impact on either the final Spring 2021 term GPA or the Academic Standing of the student.

For students to earn the distinction of Presidential Medal at the time of graduation, they cannot have any non-letter grade on their transcript for any semester.

Semester GPAs will be calculated and temporarily recorded before any grade changes to special letters take place. Students who meet all criteria of the current policy based on their actual semester GPA will go on the Dean's List. The Dean's List designation will remain on the transcript even after grades have been converted to special letter designation and GPAs recalculated.

At the time of graduation, **students will earn Latin distinction awards (i.e., cum laude) based on the actual GPA in all courses they have taken**, including those selected for non-letter grade designation. The GPA for such honors will be calculated based on grades before any conversion to NAD, AC, or P.

Students must adhere to the timelines specified for submitting their choice of courses for special grade designation. Except for a documented technical error on the part of the university, changes will not be allowed beyond the deadline specified. Furthermore, students will not be allowed to make a change to the initial selection of course(s) for special (NAD, AC, P) grade designation under any conditions.

The University Registrar will follow up later in the semester to provide additional information detailing how the Spring 2021 Special Grading Policy will be implemented.