



Academic Continuity under Emergency

COVID-19 2020

Academic Council site: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/>

Background: faculty oversight of curriculum and academic integrity

- 2014 GTFF strike: no faculty involvement in Academic Continuity planning
- The Academic Integrity Task Force (AITF) was formed by Senate legislation on 12/3/14 to respond to the University's Academic Continuity Plan and its infringement on academic integrity and shared governance.
- The 2014 AITF consisted of the chairs of the Committee on Courses (Frances White), the Undergraduate Council (Ron Bramhall) and the Graduate Council (Joe Lowndes).
- See AITF report and recommendations: https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/aitfrecommendation-12-7-14_final_0/

Academic Council reinstatement

- The Academic Integrity Task Force reported that the University lacks clear protocols for engaging the Senate and its committees on academic matters in emergencies
- AITF recommend that during Winter term 2015, the Senate President convene the Academic Council and charge that body with developing, in consultation with Academic Affairs and the President's office, clear protocols for the involvement of the Senate and the relevant Senate committees in campus-wide academic planning and decision-making.
- Academic Council was reinstated (**Academic Council:** The UO Constitution and Section 6 of the Senate Bylaws establish the Academic Council and its membership <https://senate.uoregon.edu/committees/committees-a-z/>)

Academic Continuity Plan

- After considerable reviews and consultations, Academic Council developed the Academic Continuity Plan https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.uoregon.edu/dist/3/17592/files/2020/05/AcademicContinuity_FINAL_04_03_19.pdf
- Established framework to guide planning and decision-making in the event that a significant disruption to campus operations impedes academic activity (Senate approved US18/19-10 4/24/19)
- “Once a state of emergency has been declared the Academic Council will be convened to determine, in coordination with designees from the Office of the Provost, an appropriate Academic Continuity Plan, if needed, to manage any associated disruption of academic activity.”
- The plan also documented the role of Instructors of Record and created Emergency Grades

COVID-19 emergency / Academic Council:

- Principle: to hold students harmless while recognizing that students have differing needs during this time
- Pass / No Pass helps some students but hurts others, so allow students to make an informed choice and be able to switch after knowing grades (this required grades be entered)
- Instructors of Record make determinations on the impact on their classes and adjust delivery to meet learning outcomes
- See: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/academic-continuity-policies/academic-continuity-plan-for-the-coronavirus-health-emergency/>

Details: For Instructors

- Do not to ask students for doctor's notes or other documentation to verify absences (as is current policy).
- Have clear communication and make-up protocols in place for students, advisors for help.
- Requires modification to any attendance or participation polices such that attendance is not counted in grades and participation points could be made up or waived.
- Can modify course expectations such that required work is reduced or grading schemes are adjusted provided they can still meet course learning objectives.
- Requires make ups or alternatives to exams.
- Requires clear, consistent, and specific communication to students about any modifications to the course and changes to assignments and deadlines.
- Requires use of Canvas for courses.

Grading: changes should not harm students

- Deadline to change to P/NP extended to 30 days after grades posted
- For all classes including “graded only”
- Spring Pass will count as a P* - that is as graded credit – and count towards the 168 graded credits needed to graduate for Spring term
- Means that instructors must keep letter grades so students can change
- Departments are asked to review and waive requirements for majors and prerequisites, if it makes sense to do so (departments recorded exceptions when this is not a good idea),
- See: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/academic-continuity-policies/modifications-to-grading-options-for-spring-2020-courses-3/>
- Equivalent modifications for graduate courses: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/academic-continuity-policies/modifications-to-grading-options-for-spring-2020-graduate-courses-4-7-2020/>

Updates for summer:

- Plan stays in effect with modifications, but with better time/planning for summer
- Instructors may count attendance and participation with reasonable ways for students to complete make-up assignments for missed class sessions or participation points without loss of credit. Instructors must communicate these policies in their syllabi. Instructors who are unsure whether they are making reasonable accommodations should confer with their unit heads for guidance.
- Extension of grading policy change: The deadline to change grade-optional courses from graded to P/N (pass/no pass) will be extended 30 days after the date that final grades are posted for that term.
- Continues as P*
- and

Policies on student engagement and contact hours that instructors should follow, therefore:

- It is expected that non-WEB courses shall provide live engagement during the scheduled meeting times as defined by the Student Engagement Inventory for the course.
- Instructors may make the following adjustments for courses that have to be offered remotely or partially remotely (some face-to-face and some remote) – can be mix of different formats
- Whatever the mix, at least 50% of the live engagement should include planned and structured content delivery or discussion.
- Instructors should be available to students during each scheduled class period.
- <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academiccouncil/academic-continuity-policies/academic-council-continuity-expectations-4-22-20-final/>

Fall updates and planning

- Plan remains in place for fall so that students that register for Fall next week know the conditions
- The decision for Winter 2021 will happen before registration opens for that term
- Reminders: Students and Instructors are required by university policy to use their Uoregon accounts for university business including instruction, and must not share their credentials with anyone.
- Instructors may use other FERPA-compliant software to supplement Canvas use. These include the UO licensed versions of Office 365, which includes One Drive and Teams, Zoom and Dropbox. You can find out more about acceptable technology tools and software here: <https://is.uoregon.edu/remote>.