
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 24, 2020 (updated April 3, 2020)

FROM: Shawn Bayern, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Emergency Changes to Academic Rules for Spring 2020

The purpose of this memorandum is to set out changes adopted on emergency basis by the College of Law in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the university's shift to online teaching as a result. These changes override the usual academic rules for the Spring 2020 semester (and only for that semester).

This memo applies to JD and LLM students, not to JM students.

AMENDMENT 1 – SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY GRADING

For Spring 2020, all College of Law courses will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis (commonly known as “pass/fail”). Only the following score codes may be entered for College of Law courses in Spring 2020.

<u>CODE</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
S	Satisfactory work
U	Unsatisfactory work
I	Incomplete
IE	Incomplete expired
AF	Administrative failure
AD	Administrative disenrollment (no credit)
WD	Withdrawal from course by College of Law permission
W	Withdrawn from the College of Law or the University

There are no prescribed limits or “curve” for these score codes in any course. The expectation is that a grade of S will be given for work that would have earned a D– grade or higher under the College’s ordinary grading system.

The score codes listed here do not count as graded credits toward the computation of grade-point average (GPA), except that each AF and IE score is included as a grade with zero points in the computation of GPA, and each U assigned in a course that was originally listed as a graded course will be converted to an F (for “Letter-Grade JD Students”) or a 60 (for “Number-Grade JD Students”) on the student’s transcript and will be counted accordingly toward the computation of GPA.

This change applies to all Spring 2020 courses regardless of the date of completion of those courses, whether those courses originally required only online work, and the nature of the course’s requirements. It applies to both “Letter-Grade JD Students” and “Number-Grade JD Students” as defined in the academic-rules memo of August 27, 2019.

AMENDMENT 2 – EXAMS

Except with the specific approval of the dean or the dean’s designee, all remaining exams for Spring 2020 will all be administered as open-book, take-home examinations, and students will have from April 20 to May 1 to complete the exams on their own schedules.

Exams will continue to be graded anonymously.

AMENDMENT 3 – COUNTING OF “GRADED” COURSES

College of Law requirements for graduation and certificates distinguish between graded and ungraded courses for the purposes of certain numerical requirements.

For all purposes—including but not limited to (1) the “graded hours requirement” of Section 1.2.3 of the *Academic Rules, Policies and Procedures* and (2) the requirements under Section 14 of the *Academic Rules, Policies and Procedures* for the certificate programs in Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law; International Law; and Business Law—courses that were originally listed as graded courses will count as graded courses for all students who receive a score code of S in those courses.

AMENDMENT 4 – COUNTING OF “ONLINE” COURSES

For the purposes of the 15-credit limit for online courses imposed by Section 11.7 of the *Academic Rules, Policies and Procedures*, courses that originally were not listed as online courses will not count as online courses.

However, under Standard 306 of the American Bar Association’s *Standards of Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools*, in no event may a JD student exceed 29

credit hours of online courses (defined as those “in which students are separated from the faculty member or each other for more than one-third of the instruction and the instruction involves the use of technology to support regular and substantive interaction among students and between the students and the faculty member, either synchronously or asynchronously”).

AMENDMENT 5 – PARTIALLY UNGRADED OPTION

S/U grading elections made for Spring 2020 (under Section 4.4.3 of the *Academic Rules, Policies and Procedures* or Amendment 4 of the academic-rules memo of August 27, 2019) will not be counted toward students’ limits for future S/U grading elections.

AMENDMENT 6 – ACADEMIC DISMISSAL AND GRADUATION

No student will be academically dismissed in either the Spring 2020 or the Summer 2020 term unless (1) they enter the term with a cumulative GPA of less than 2.00 and (2) they receive a score of U in a course during that term.

Readmitted students with requirements to meet GPA thresholds for continued enrollment in the College of Law will have one extra full semester to meet those requirements. (For example, a requirement for Spring 2020 will not be applied until Fall 2020; a requirement for Fall 2020 will not be applied until Spring 2021.) However, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve the course schedules of all students with a cumulative GPA of less than 2.00.

Graduation requirements remain unchanged.

AMENDMENT 7 – LLM GRADE ADJUSTMENTS

The usual adjustment to the grades of LLM students in JD courses will not be made.

AMENDMENT 8 – HONORS AND DEANS LIST

No changes to thresholds for graduation honors will be made for students graduating in the class of 2020. No Dean’s List will be issued for Spring 2020.