



Policy Title

Corona Virus Fall 2020 Special Grading Policy

Policy Number

1-411-A

Responsible Unit: Southern University Law Center	Effective Date: November <u>20</u> , 2020
Responsible Official: Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs	Last Reviewed Date: N/A
Policy Classification: Academic Affairs	Origination Date: November <u>20</u> , 2020

I. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to inform SULC faculty, staff, and students of the manner in which final grades will be awarded during the fall 2020 academic semester that has been interrupted or impacted by the Corona Virus pandemic.

II. Policy Scope

This policy applies to full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, staff, and students.

III. Policy Compliance

This policy will affect how the final grades are recorded on a transcript of a student in response to the Corona Virus pandemic for the fall 2020 semester.

IV. Policy Definitions

Fall 2020 Academic Semester/Session Interrupted or Impacted by the Corona Virus Pandemic

The fall 2020 academic semester or session during which the delivery of the program of legal education is modified due to the corona virus pandemic refers to the fall 2020 academic semester that began on August 11, 2020 and ends on December 12, 2020

Student Grade Election Procedures

The procedures which a student must use to have grades awarded by their professors changed to a different grade of "W."

Grades Available Due to Student Grade Election Procedure

A letter grade of “W” will appear if a student decides to withdraw from a course. Such a course must be taken over by the student and passed in order to earn course credit.

A letter grade of “F” is considered a failing grade.

Student Grade Election Form

A grade election form must be completed by a student in order to change a grade pursuant to this policy.

V. Policy Development and Implementation Procedure

The policy was created as a response to Corona Virus Academic Guidelines originally issued by the Southern University System on April 3, 2020, as well as the Discretionary Authority Granted to Campus Chancellors to extend Corona Virus Academic Guidelines approved by the Southern University System on October 23, 2020. The policy was developed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and discussed with the faculty on November 18, 2020. As an Administrative policy, the policy was implemented by the Chancellor on November 23, 2020. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will be charged with implementing and enforcing this policy.

VI. Policy and Applicable Procedures

- A. The Fall 2020 semester has been designated herein as a semester interrupted or impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. All SULC courses will be graded using the normal grading system for the fall 2020 semester.
- C. The date to withdraw from a course, during the fall 2020 semester without earning a failing grade, has hereby been extended until November 25, 2020.
- D. During the Fall 2020 semester, once final grades are awarded and posted, the following Student Grade Election Procedures are available to students:
 - 1) A student can elect to keep each grade originally awarded by a professor.
 - 2) A student may elect to withdraw from any class wherein the student earned a letter grade of “D” or “D-“ or “F” irrespective of the student’s grade point average in the immediately preceding semester.
 - 3) A student electing to withdraw from any class under these procedures will have the grade originally awarded in that course by the professor removed from the student’s transcript and replaced with the letter grade of “W.” A student must repeat a course from which he/she elects to withdraw under these procedures, unless that course is not required for graduation.
 - 4) If a student is awarded an incomplete grade during the Fall 2020 semester, such student will have until February 28, 2021 to satisfy the incomplete grades, unless additional time is granted by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

- E. The Student Grade Election Procedure described above shall be available to a student for fourteen days after the student's final grade is posted by the Office of Records and Registration, unless extended by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
- F. These procedures are inapplicable to any course that was graded on a "Pass/Fail" basis prior the implementation of the procedures.
- G. The letter grade of "W" will not be used in the calculation of a student's grade point average.
- H. Any student choosing to utilize the Student Grade Election Procedures stated above, must complete and sign a form evidencing his or her election. This form, which will be developed by the Office of Records and Registration, must be reviewed by an Academic Counselor/Instructor. The Academic Counselor/Instructor will also sign the form indicating that s/he have advised the student of the implications of the decisions contained on the Student Grade Election Form.
- I. A student who entered the Fall 2020 semester on academic probation and fails to raise their cumulative grade point average to at least a 2.0 at the completion of the Fall 2020 semester, will not be academically dismissed. Such a student who fails to raise their cumulative grade point average to at least a 2.0 at the end of the Spring 2021 semester will be academically dismissed.

VII. Policy History and Review

This policy was created in response to the impact of the Corona Virus pandemic. The policy became effective on November, 2020. The policy is temporary and, as such, not subject to a review cycle.

VIII. Publication of Policy

This policy is published on the Southern University Law Center website at www.sulc.edu.

IX. Policy Approval

This policy was approved by:

s/ John K. Pierre
John K. Pierre
Chancellor, Southern University Law Center

November 20, 2020
Date

s/ Ray L. Belton
Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.
President-Chancellor – Southern University and A&M College System

Effective Date of Policy

s/ Domoine D. Rutledge
The Honorable Attorney Domoine D. Rutledge
Chairman – Southern University System Board of Supervisors

Effective Date of Policy