

April 6, 2020

In light of the university's decision to provide students to select a pass/no credit option for courses taken during the spring of 2020, the School of Nursing (SON) would like to provide you with guidance on how these options may impact current and future students in the SON.

New Applicants:

The SON applicants, across all programs, with actual grades (A, B, C), will receive priority consideration during the application review process. Most SON application processes assign points for letter grades in select courses. Therefore, without a letter grade, no points can be assigned. However, students who opt to take the "pass" option on a nursing prerequisite course (e.g., Nutrition, Microbiology, Anatomy, and Physiology, Statistics), may repeat the course for a grade at a later time.

The SON will not count "Pass" attempts towards the repeat limits if a student chooses to retake the course nor will it count reattempts if the student takes the "no credit" option.

Students already offered admission for fall 2020, will not be impacted by their selection.

Current Students:

Students retain the right to take the "pass" option; however, the SON progression policies will remain in effect for all programs. Our CCNE accredited programs require that existing policies support the achievement of the mission, goals and expected program outcomes of the SON. Moreover, the North Carolina Board of Nursing establishes the standards for nursing education programs preparing for initial nursing licensure. These standards are designed to ensure that graduates have the necessary education to safely and competently practice nursing. Similarly, the SON is accountable to the multiple bodies which provide advanced certification opportunities for our graduates and who grant approval to practice as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN). The SON's progression policies exist in support of these standards and approval processes. Therefore, currently enrolled students, who take the "pass" option, will be subject to the existing progression policy. However, this option will not impact the student's GPA.

**Additional Considerations**

Applying to Graduate Schools:

Every nursing graduate school has different requirements for admission and therefore this is general guidance to be considered. Many Nurse Anesthesia and Nurse Practitioner programs will include additional GPA calculations such as an overall science GPA or calculated GPA on all prior nursing courses. A course pass may be considered as minimal achievement and equate to only minimal points in such calculations. Therefore, it may be in a student's best interest to keep a grade of A, B, or C. Additionally, some programs may expect certain grades (minimum of a B) in certain coursework to be eligible for admission. It is also true that many other factors such as purpose statements, references, and other variables are included in admission rubrics. The best advice is to review graduate program admission criteria before deciding on the Pass/No Credit option.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dena Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dena" and last name "Evans" clearly distinguishable.

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