

**Fall 2020 Modified Grading for UG Courses (including 500 level)**

Students will be allowed to select Pass/Fail grading for up to three courses in Fall 2020, including courses for satisfaction of major, School/College, and University requirements. For Fall 2020, a Pass will suffice in cases in which a minimum letter grade was required. The deadline to declare Pass/Fail will be extended to Friday, November 20th. Actual course grades may be needed for application to graduate school, medical school, professional programs, other post-baccalaureate purposes, and to meet scholarship eligibility requirements. Students have up to six months after graduation to revoke P/F grading before their University record/transcript is “frozen” and no further changes are allowed. (After this period, a student may request an official letter from the Registrar indicating the letter grade that was submitted by the faculty member.)

**Health and Wellbeing.** During this time, you may be experiencing new stresses related to the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to other pressures such as health, money, family, and academic concerns or stress and trauma from societal inequities and violence. You are not alone at UMass – many people care about your wellbeing and many resources are available to help you thrive and succeed. The College recognizes that coursework is challenging and that classes are not the only demand in your life. Success in this course and the College of Engineering depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Recognize that stress is an expected part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected setbacks or life changes outside the classroom such as those related to COVID-19. I strongly encourage you to reframe challenges as an unavoidable pathway to success. Reflect on your role in taking care of yourself throughout the term, before the demands of exams and projects reach their peak. Please feel free to reach out to me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance as soon as it occurs and before it becomes too overwhelming. I encourage you to contact support services on campus that stand ready to assist you. You can learn about the confidential mental health services available on campus by calling the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH) by visiting their website at [umass.edu/counseling](http://umass.edu/counseling). Within the College, you may reach out to your academic advisor, the Office of Student Affairs (<http://engineering.umass.edu/current-students/academics-advising>) or the Office of Community Equity and Inclusion ([rees@umass.edu](mailto:rees@umass.edu)). There are many other resources on campus for students facing personal, financial or life challenges to find support, stay in school, and graduate (<https://www.umass.edu/studentlife/single-stop>). Please reach out to me for support finding the resources you need.

**Disability Accommodation and Inclusive Learning Statement.** Your success in this class is important to me. We all learn differently and bring different strengths and needs to the class. The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to making reasonable, effective and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities and help create a barrier-free campus. If you have a qualifying disability and require accommodations while participating in this course, please work with Disability Services to have an accommodation letter sent to me in a timely manner. If you have a disability but are not yet affiliated with Disability Services, please register with Disability Services (<https://www.umass.edu/disability/students>). Information on services and materials for registering are also available on their website [www.umass.edu/disability](http://www.umass.edu/disability). If

you are eligible for exam accommodations, your exams will be administered by the exam proctoring center. Contact Disability Services immediately, and comply with their exam scheduling policies, including the requirement that you book your exams at least seven days in advance of the exam date. *It is incumbent upon you contact me during the first few weeks of the semester, or shortly following registration with Disability Services, to ensure that your accommodations are being sufficiently met, including extra time and note-taking access, as applicable.* Finally, beyond disability accommodations, if there are aspects of the course that prevent you from learning or make you feel excluded, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

**Integrity.** There is no place for a dishonest engineer! Please read and be aware of the academic honesty policy: [http://www.umass.edu/dean\\_students/academic\\_policy](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/academic_policy). While this isn't something that should arise, it is something we should be aware of and discuss as a class, as integrity is a core value of the engineering profession.

**Inclusivity:** The diversity of the participants of this course is a valuable source of ideas, problem solving strategies, and engineering creativity. If you feel that your contribution is not being valued or respected for any reason, please speak with me privately. If you wish to communicate with someone else in the College, speak with Assistant Dean Dr. Paula Rees ([rees@umass.edu](mailto:rees@umass.edu)). You may also report a Climate Incident to campus at [umass.edu/diversity](http://umass.edu/diversity) or anonymously through the College of Engineering Climate Concerns and Suggestions on-line form (<https://tinyurl.com/UMassEngineerClimate>) and/or the Positive and Negative Classroom Experience online form (<https://tinyurl.com/UMassEngineerClassroom>). We are all members of an academic community with a shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect.

**Pronouns and Names.** Everyone has the right to be addressed by the name and pronouns that they use for themselves. Students can indicate their preferred/chosen first name and pronouns on SPIRE, which appear on class rosters. Please let me know what name and pronouns I should use for you if they are not on the roster. A student's chosen name and pronouns are to be respected at all times in the classroom. To learn more, read the Intro Handout on Pronouns:

[https://www.umass.edu/stonewall/sites/default/files/pronouns\\_intro.pdf](https://www.umass.edu/stonewall/sites/default/files/pronouns_intro.pdf)

**Gender Respect and Title IX.** The University of Massachusetts Amherst aspires to be a university environment that is free of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Faculty have the responsibility to inform students of resources and reporting options. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or sexual discrimination please see <https://www.umass.edu/titleix/what-to-do> for information about resources and reporting options. A report to the Title IX Coordinator may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the Title IX Coordinator's email ([TitleIXCoordinator@umass.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@umass.edu)), telephone number (413.545.6124) or mail. UMass Amherst is committed to supporting community members who report

concerns of prohibited conduct. Please reach out to me if you would like assistance connecting with any of these resources/options.