

Temporary Compassionate Grading Procedure			
Parent Policy	Temporary Compassionate Grading Policy		
Policy Sponsor	Provost and Vice President Academic	Category	Academic
Policy Contact	Deputy Provost, Academic Operations	Effective Date	July 1, 2022
Procedure Contact	Deputy Provost, Academic Operations	Review Date	December 31, 2022

1. Purpose

This procedure sets out the process for requesting and approving a compassionate grade for undergraduate and graduate learners.

2. Scope

As is the case with the Parent Policy, this Procedure is temporary and will be in force for courses completed between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022. It will be reviewed in December 2022 to determine if it needs to continue, based on the current pandemic situation.

NOTE: The flexible grading option may not apply for courses with external accreditation requirements. In such cases, these courses and programs will be ineligible. Learners should consult with Academic Advising for guidance.

3. Definitions

Academic Advising Team	Refers to the relevant Academic Advisor or Academic Advising Team member for Undergraduates.
Official Student Record	An official document issued by AU that confirms courses completed and the grades achieved in those courses. Also called the transcript.
Program Director	Refers to the relevant Program Director for Graduates.

4. Guiding Principles

- a. Learners in undergraduate programs will contact the relevant Academic Advising Team member, and learners in graduate programs will contact the relevant Program Director, for the purpose of determining if it is possible to take the option of an unweighted Pass “P” grade for one course selected.

- b. Academic Advisors and Program Directors will issue the following guidance to learners who are exploring the Compassionate Grading option in order to consider longer term impacts to the learner's Official Student Record (transcript) such as:
 - i. Pass "P" grades may affect a learner's ability to meet admission requirements for future programs, including graduate schools and professional programs.
 - ii. Pass "P" grades may not be accepted or recognized for transfer credit at other institutions based on their institutional regulations.
 - iii. Pass "P" grades may impact your eligibility for external scholarship consideration.
- c. Once consultation is complete and the learner understands below, the Advisor or Program Director will submit approval to the Office of the Registrar. The request must be made within 30 days of the end of this Procedure.
 - i. It is exclusively a Learner's responsibility to select the course, and to ensure that opting to take a Pass "P" grade instead of the course grade is their best option.
 - ii. There are some courses that are ineligible due to accreditation and professional requirements. The Office of the Registrar will maintain this list.
 - iii. It will be understood that any learner submitting a request for the Compassionate Grading option has considered the input of their relevant Academic Advising Team member or Program Director.
 - iv. Once a learner has requested a Compassionate Grading option, the approval decision is final and cannot be reversed.
- d. Approval criteria to be applied by the Office of the Registrar under this Procedure, beyond the minimum required course grade achieved, will also address the following:
 - i. Was the course completed within the relevant timeframe?
 - ii. Has the policy been applied to other courses in the academic year?
- e. Compassionate Grading decisions are final. There are no exceptions.

5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

None Applicable

6. Related Procedures/Documents

[Temporary Compassionate Grading Policy](#)

[Graduate Grading Policy](#)

[Undergraduate Academic Standing Policy](#)

[Undergraduate Academic Standing Procedures](#)

[Undergraduate Grading Policy](#)

[Undergraduate Honours List Policy](#)

The Universities Coordinating Council Common Grading System Committee, June 2001 Update Report.

Athabasca University Grading Policy: Minimum Passing Grades, Recording of Failures, and Withdrawals, original 17 October 1988, revised 20 November 1990.
(143)

History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
June 23, 2022	GFC Motion #74-02 (Revised Policy approved)
January 18, 2022	GFC Motion #68-02 (Revised Related Policy approved)
August 25, 2021	GFC Motion# 66-02 (Related Policy approved)