

Fall 2020 Grading FAQ

How will Fall semester 2020 courses be graded?

A Fall semester 2020 course will be graded as indicated in the course syllabus at the start of the semester. Unlike other semesters, however, the deadline to withdraw has been extended to January 12, 2021.

What happens if I want to earn a letter grade for my course(s)?

Since this is the default grading policy, students do not have to take any action. Grades will be submitted to PAWS, count toward the GPA, and function in the same ways that grades do each semester.

What happens if I choose to withdraw from my course(s)?

The withdrawal deadline has been extended for the Fall 2020 semester until January 12, 2021. This extension allows students to withdraw from one, multiple, or all Fall 2020 courses. To complete this process, students must submit the appropriate form to the Office of Records and Registration:

- Individual Course Withdrawal: One or more (but not all) Fall 2020 classes would each receive a retroactive grade of W with no refund. W grades do not earn credit and are not included in GPA. Before withdrawing, students are strongly encouraged to consult with their academic advisor.
- Semester Withdrawal: To withdraw from the full semester, all Fall 2020 classes would receive a retroactive grade of WD with no refund. WD grades do not earn credit and are not included in GPA. Before withdrawing, students are strongly encouraged to consult with their academic advisor.

Students may access Fall 2020 withdrawal forms on the Records and Registration [forms page](#) between December 18 and January 12.

Should I talk with my academic advisor before withdrawing from a Fall 2020 course(s)?

Before choosing to withdraw from a Fall course(s), students are strongly advised to discuss this option with their advisors as soon as possible. Withdrawing from a course(s) may have negative implications for future curricular requirements and/or making progress toward degree completion.

Why was the Spring 2020 Ungraded Option (Pass/Fail option) not extended to the Fall 2020 semester?

TCNJ announced prior to the start of the Fall 2020 semester that it would follow its typical [Ungraded Option \(pass/fail\) policy](#). Late in the Fall semester, the College received a significant number of requests from students to adopt a more wide-ranging graded/ungraded (pass/fail)

policy, similar to what was implemented for the Spring 2020 semester when TCNJ pivoted to remote instruction. As a result of these student concerns, TCNJ's shared governance system formally took into consideration the students' requests for a revised policy for Fall 2020.

TCNJ's decision not to reinstate the Spring 2020 Ungraded Option policy was recommended by the Committee on Academic Programs (CAP). CAP received and sought testimony from students, faculty, and staff. CAP's recommendation was further informed by an analysis of course withdrawal rates, mid-term progress reports, and students' use of the Spring 2020 Ungraded Option policy. CAP was concerned that an extension of the Spring 2020 policy as written would not serve students well and could not be applied fairly to all students this late in the semester. However, the testimony that CAP received also confirmed that students are facing extra stresses this semester, leading to the recommendation to extend the withdrawal deadline beyond the end of Fall 2020 semester to January 12, 2021.

Once I withdraw from a graded course, can I change my mind and switch back?

Students may ask to rescind their withdrawal from a graded course through January 12, 2021 by emailing Frank Cooper, Executive Director of the Office of Records and Registration, at fcooper@tcnj.edu.

Does this extension apply to all students enrolled in Fall 2020 courses?

All undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in TCNJ courses during Fall 2020 who will otherwise receive a grade may choose to withdraw from a Fall 2020 course.

Will withdrawing from a course affect my financial aid?

No.

How will this change affect my GPA?

Only courses that are graded will enter into GPA calculations. Courses from which students withdraw will not factor into the GPA. The College will not be able to calculate or communicate alternative GPAs. Before withdrawing from a course or courses, students are strongly encouraged to consult with their academic advisor.

If at the end of Fall 2020 I have failed to achieve or maintain academic good standing, what happens next?

The [Probation, Dismissal, and Academic Standing](#) policy will apply for the Fall 2020 semester.

Will choosing to withdraw from a course affect my ability to make Dean's List?

As per [TCNJ policy](#), undergraduate students must take three graded course units to be eligible for Dean's List and earn a 3.5 GPA. Courses from which students withdraw will not count towards this requirement.

Will choosing to withdraw from a course affect my ability to graduate with honors?

Undergraduate students must earn at least 16 graded course units to be eligible for graduation with honors, as per [TCNJ policy](#).

What other factors should I consider when deciding if I want to withdraw from a course?

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their academic advisor(s), as soon as possible, about factors to consider when deciding to withdraw from a course. Withdrawing from a course(s) may have negative implications for future curricular requirements and/or making progress toward degree completion.

What if I am repeating a class?

The [Repeating Courses](#) policy allows courses to be repeated once. This policy applies to courses in which a W grade is received. In order to take a course more than twice, permission is required.

What is the deadline for deciding if I want to withdraw from one or more Fall 2020 classes?

Students may access withdrawal forms on the Records and Registration [forms page](#) between December 18, 2020 and January 12, 2021. The deadline to withdraw is January 12.