FAQs for COVID-19 Grade Options:

Leadership in Rady Faculty of Health Sciences have tried to anticipate your questions in regards to grading options during to the current COVID-19 situation. The FAQ’s are intended to provide guidance on admission to and progression in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences undergraduate programs which include: International Dentist Degree Program (IDDP), Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), Dental Hygiene(diploma), B.Sc. Dentistry and B.Sc Dental Hygiene, Doctor of Medicine (MD), Bachelor of Nursing (BN), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (B. Sc Pharmacy), Bachelor of Respiratory Therapy (BRT), Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) and Bachelor of Health Studies (BHSt). If you do not find the answer to your questions in this document, please reach out to your respective Associate Dean, Program Director, College Dean or Advisor for further information.

The Rady Faculty of Health Sciences administers several graduate programs including: Master of Occupational Therapy, Master of Physical Therapy, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, MSc in Genetic Counselling, Master of Dentistry: Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Master of Dentistry: Pediatric Dentistry, Master of Dentistry: Periodontics, Master of Sciences: Orthodontics, Master of Science: Prosthodontics; Adult Dentistry Internship Program, Master’s and PhD programs. Information on how grading options factor in to admissions or progression in the above programs can be found at: https://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus/students#graduate-students. For information on how the grading options outlined below impact admission and progression to Faculty of Graduate Studies please refer to this link.

The three approaches to grades as approved by Senate Executive are summarized below. It is important to note the grading options may or may not be acceptable for admission or progression in Rady Faculty of Health Sciences undergraduate programs. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged to discuss further with your Associate Dean, Program Director, College Dean or Advisor before choosing an option.

**Senat Executive Approved grading options for students:**

**Standard Approach:** Accept the letter grade you received. This is the default and standard grading approach approved at the UM and represents the default grading approach for students. The grade will be used in GPA calculations.

**Option 1:** Accept the Letter Grade received but exclude it from the UM GPA calculations. Letter grade will appear on the student’s transcript with a notation indicating that the student chose to exclude it from their UM GPA calculations due to the COVID-19 situation. Grades excluded in the calculation of the GPA will not be used in calculating GPA for the purpose of program progression and/or overall graduation GPA requirements. However, letter grades will continue to be used to satisfy UM pre-requisite requirements for entry into other courses, or admission to other programs, and to satisfy any other program requirements. (APPROVED BY SENATE EXECUTIVE; MARCH 25, 2020)

**Option 2:** Choose to have performance assessed as ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail’. A ‘pass’ grade can only be chosen if the grade achieved was a grade of D or higher. In this scenario, no letter grade will be recorded or retained. A notation will be used to indicate that the student chose this approach.
‘Pass’ grades will be available only if the original letter grade is ‘D’ or higher and will not be included in the UM GPA calculations.

(APPROVED BY SENATE EXECUTIVE; APRIL 1, 2020)

Regardless of any choice made with respect to course grading, students will remain obliged to meet all existing admission, prerequisite, progression, degree, and graduation policies and requirements that may apply to them. It is vital that students understand the implications of their choices both for meeting prerequisite, progression, degree, and graduation requirements within their existing program of study and current Faculty, and for requirements for admission to, progression within, and graduation from, any other programs in the same or a different Faculty which they may wish to pursue in the future. (For example, a program may require a grade of B or higher as a prerequisite for enrolment in a subsequent course and would not accept a grade of "pass.")

**Rady Faculty of Health Sciences’ Response to FAQs regarding the grading options detailed above.**

1. **What is the deadline to declare my grade option choice(s) for my courses?**
   You will have **until May 10, 2020** to choose the ‘pass’ option for final grades of D or higher, or to exercise the previously approved option to exclude a course grade from UM GPA calculations.

2. **How do I declare my grade option choice?**
   The process to do so is still being determined, but will be communicated as soon as possible. (Once final grades are available on Aurora you will be able to make this choice.)

3. **What happens if I fail (“F”) a course?**
   If you receive a failing grade in Winter term 2020, it will be automatically excluded from all UM GPA calculations. Failing grades will appear on your transcript but will be identified as having been excluded from UM GPA calculations due to the COVID-19 situation.
   NOTE: Failing grades will be considered for admission and progression purposes.

4. **What does choosing a ‘pass’ grade mean for an admission requirement in a Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Undergraduate program?**
   If you choose this option, the ‘pass’ designation will appear on your transcript, but will be flagged with a notation that you made this decision due to the COVID-19 situation.

   Choosing a ‘pass’ grade will be available **only if the original letter grade is ‘D’ or higher.**

   Students still require grades for admissions. ‘Pass’ grades **cannot** be used for fulfilling admissions requirements. The only exception is the Undergraduate Medical Education Program in the Max Rady College of Medicine. As the Undergraduate Medical Education program has a degree requirement for admission, ‘pass’ grades would still meet the criteria for admission to this program.

5. **What does choosing a ‘pass’ grade mean for progression in a Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Undergraduate program?**
Note: progression means a student moving from term to term or year to year. If you choose this option, the ‘pass’ designation will appear on your transcript, but will be flagged with a notation that you made this decision due to the COVID-19 situation.

Choosing a ‘pass’ grade will be available only if the original letter grade is ‘D’ or higher.

Students still require grades for progression. ‘Pass’ grades cannot be used for fulfilling progression requirements. The only exception is the Undergraduate Medical Education Program in the Max Rady College of Medicine. The Max Rady College of Medicine MD program has a long established pass/fail policy for exams.

6. What does choosing to “exclude” a grade mean for admission requirements in Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Undergraduate programs?
If you choose the ‘exclude’ option, the grade will appear on your transcript and remain part of your student record. It will be used to fulfill any admission requirements and Grade Point Average calculations used for admissions purposes.

7. What is the effect of choosing a ‘pass’ or ‘exclude’ on a course grade on my progression in my Undergraduate program?
Note: progression can mean a student moving from term to term or year to year.

Grades excluded in the calculation of the Grade Point Average will still be used in calculating Grade Point Averages for the purpose of program progression and/or overall graduation Grade Point Average requirements. Course grades will continue to be used to satisfy prerequisite requirements for entry into other courses and to satisfy any other program requirements.

8. What are the implications of the grade options on my graduation requirements in my Undergraduate program?

The degree requirement for each of the programs must be satisfied as defined by the program and outlined in the Academic Calendar. Please contact your Program Director, Associate Dean Academic, College Dean or Advisors if you are unsure how the grading options above impact your degree requirements.

9. How will each grading options affect my eligibility for Scholarships, University Medals and Program Medals
Regardless of which grading option students choose, student’s award eligibility will not be affected.

If a student keeps their standard letter grade these grades will be taken into account as usual.

If a student decides to exclude a grade from the GPA calculation it will also be excluded from an award GPA calculation.

If a student decides to choose a ‘pass’, this notation will not be included in an award GPA calculation.
In each of the last two options (excluding a grade or choosing a pass) the courses where an alternate grade option was selected will still count toward minimum credit hour thresholds when determining award eligibility.

In other words, if a student chooses a ‘pass’ it will be excluded from an award GPA calculation but will be used to satisfy minimum credit hour requirements as outlined in an award Terms of Reference (ToR). The same applies to University Medals and Program Medals. 

More details will follow as the University considers this complex matter.

10. I am a prospective student applying to an Undergraduate program in Rady Faculty of Health Sciences for the September 2020 intake. How will the grading options affect my admission assessment?

Admissions requirements as outlined in each Undergraduate programs Applicant Information Bulletin must be met. No pass grades can be used for fulfilling admission requirements. In addition, selecting exclude from the degree GPA (asterisk grade), does not exclude them from admission GPA calculations. Written or ‘W’ and Math or ‘M' requirements must be met as outlined in the Applicant Information Bulletin for each respective program. If you have any questions on this matter, please reach out to the Admissions Office for more details.

If you have further questions or comments please email the advisor for your respective program as listed below.

International Dentist Degree Program (IDDP): Jean.Lyon@umanitoba.ca
Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD): Susan.Petras@umanitoba.ca
Dental Hygiene (diploma): Lisa.Chrusch@umanitoba.ca
B.Sc. Dentistry: Susan.Petras@umanitoba.ca
B.Sc. Dental Hygiene: Lisa.Chrusch@umanitoba.ca
Doctor of Medicine (MD): Sara.Goulet@umanitoba.ca
Bachelor of Nursing (BN): Nursing@umanitoba.ca
Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD): Cheryl.Lee@umanitoba.ca
Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (B.Sc.Parmacy): Cheryl.Lee@umanitoba.ca
Bachelor of Respiratory Therapy (BRT): Darlene.Bowes@umanitoba.ca
Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc.) and Bachelor of Health Studies (BHSt.): Alisa.Claman@umanitoba.ca or Karen.Holmes@umanitoba.ca