



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

30 March 2020

Dear beloved UOB Students,

It is definitely one of the hardest times that we are going through, as a country in general and as an academic institution in particular. We, whether students, staff, faculty, or administration, are all facing major existential challenges, but we should strongly collaborate to save our academic year, and prevent any possible damages to our graduating students.

After considering all options, and as promised, we have reached the most plausible, practical, and fair solution for our grading policy, to be implemented exceptionally for the Spring Semester of 2020.

This Policy will basically follow a Pass/No Pass, as well as Numerical grades, with the possibility of having projects replacing final exams in some of the Faculties. All the above will be detailed in the attached document.

For any concerns, comments, or suggestions, you can address your corresponding faculty member who will be willing to help.

Stay safe.

Elias L. Warrak

Encl. Grading Policy for Spring Semester 2020

Grading Policy for the Spring Semester 2020

Concerning the grading policy, UOB President, Dr. Elias Warrak, and the University Council decided to adopt an expanded Pass/No Pass option for students due to the crisis. Typically, the option to be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis, rather than being given a percentage grade, is available to students for all the classes they registered for during this spring 2020. It is believed that this grading policy will give students the flexibility during the crisis and can mitigate their anxiety. In addition, the policy could help promote strong engagement, allowing faculty and students to focus on the learning outcomes of courses more than just on the grade itself under the prevailing circumstances.

The Optional P/NP grading system will be applied as described below:

- 1- The P/NP system will be adopted exceptionally this spring 2020 semester for students who prefer not to show their percentage grades on their transcripts for one or more courses.
- 2- If a student gets a P grade on a course, the course credits will count on the transcript toward graduation requirements but not counted in the average.
- 3- If a student gets an NP grade on a course, the student will not receive the credits for the course because the student did Not Pass it and will have to repeat it.
- 4- Students who are repeating courses and receive a P grade; the old grade will be taken out from the cumulative average.
- 5- Students who are repeating courses and receive an NP grade; the old grade will remain counted in their cumulative average.
- 6- The dean's Honor list and merit scholarships are to be considered during the Spring 2020 semester for undergraduate students having at least 12 undergraduate credits graded numerically and meeting all other academic conditions stipulated in the Academic Rules and Regulations.



- 7- Faculty members will grade courses as usual; students will check their course grades on the SIS and decide which course(s) to keep in percentage grading and which one(s) to change to P/NP grading. Students will have seven days after grades are posted to decide if they would like to switch any courses to P/NP. Grade change must be submitted to the Registrar using the special form which will be sent to students during the final examination period.

Decision of the student should be based on a wise evaluation; for example, undergraduate (graduate) students who are expected to graduate end of spring 2020 and their cumulative average is below 70 for undergraduate students, or 80 for graduate students, by end of Fall 2019 may opt not to choose the P/NP grading system.

Students are advised to check their special cases with their **advisors or the Registrar** before taking any decision regarding their choice of grading system.

A note will be added to the transcript of the students stating that grading of the spring 2020 was made in a period of unprecedented academic disruption.

- 8- Some of the final exams may be replaced by projects for the evaluation of students. The feasibility of this option will be decided upon by the Dean of the corresponding Faculty after discussing the proposal submitted by the Chairman of the concerned department.