



**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN**

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - April 10, 2020

MSU-Northern Adopts Pass/Not Pass Grading Option for Spring Semester 2020

In response to the global health emergency imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak, Montana State University-Northern transitioned from in-person classes to a remote delivery modality for all Spring 2020 courses beginning March 23, 2020.

As part of our emergency coursework accommodations, MSU-Northern will implement an expanded Pass/Not Pass (P/NP) grading option for all undergraduate courses, effective for Spring 2020 semester. These unprecedented circumstances necessitate extraordinary measures to accommodate difficulties and challenges faced by students and faculty in managing personal matters during a pandemic, while simultaneously navigating a new course delivery modality. Universities across the country are implementing this measure because it is the right thing to do for students and for faculty who are confronting uncertainty, the likes and scope of which none of us have ever experienced.

These temporary emergency accommodations to the MSU-Northern Pass/Not Pass policy will allow students the options to transition courses to a P/NP grade at the end of the semester. Students not wishing to transition to P/NP will still receive the letter grade assigned by their instructor.

Undergraduate students who choose to receive a P/NP grade for one or more of their courses can do so by submitting a request through a form available on the University Registrar's website no later than seven (7) working days after final grades have been posted by the Registrar. A revised P/NP request form and specific guidelines for these emergency accommodations will be available on the Registrar's web page at least two weeks prior to the end of spring semester. If they miss the seven-day period to request the grading change, students may appeal to the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee to have grades changed from a letter grade to a P/NP.

Additional details regarding these emergency grading accommodations for undergraduate students will be published in the 2019-2020 catalog addendum and include:

- Faculty will grade students as usual per their syllabi grading structure during the semester with an understanding that the transition to remote learning might impact each student differently.
- The default option for students is the traditional A-F letter grade. Students may choose to receive a P/NP grade in place of a letter grade for one or more of their courses. The P/NP grade option can be requested by a student no later than seven working days after final grades have been posted by the Registrar.
- For students who request a P/NP grade, the MSU Registrar will record the P/NP designation using a rubric in which all grades of C- or higher earn a Pass, with the exception of education and nursing students, for whom all grades of C or higher will earn a Pass.
- Course grades converted to a Pass grade in this temporary P/NP option for Spring 2020 will count toward curricular, major, minor, prerequisite, progress toward degree, graduation, transfer, and financial aid requirements as well as scholarships and application to MSU-Northern graduate school programs.
- Under the P/NP option, neither Pass nor Not Pass grades will be factored into students' grade point average (GPA). Pass grades will count toward earned semester hours. An NP grade will not count toward earned semester hours in the P/NP options.
- MSU-Northern will include a designation on students' transcripts, indicating the extraordinary circumstances of the global public health emergency during Spring 2020. It appears this will be common practice at most universities in the United States.

Students requesting P/NP will need to be aware of the potential implications of transitioning one or more courses to P/NP. These will include the following:

1. Cumulative and semester GPA transcript outcomes
2. Financial aid impacts
3. Athletic eligibility
4. Implications for post-undergraduate professional training and graduate schools
5. Professional license and regulatory agency impacts (e.g., nursing, education, etc.)

Students requesting the P/NP option for one or more courses will be provided advising resources to better understand their individual impacts as part of their request.

MSU-Northern Responds to the Needs of COVID-19



Nine MSU-Northern Students to Receive Student Excellence Awards

Montana State University-Northern is pleased to announce the nine students who are receiving Student Excellence Awards this year. The Student Excellence Award is the highest honor that a student can receive at MSU-Northern. Normally these awards would be given out during the annual scholarship celebration. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, that type of presentation is not possible. Even though the students are not able to receive their award in person, it does not lessen their outstanding achievements. In order to be selected for a Student Excellence Award, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate a commitment to educational goals through academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities
- Must have been enrolled at MSU-Northern for Fall 2019 Semester and earned the equivalent of 60 semester credits by the end of Spring 2020
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00

This year's recipients are: Erika Anderson, Kishey Baker, Brittany Garden, Adam Huse, Cody Murphy, Rilee Peterson, Ryan Roche, Petra Sellin, and Amos Taiswa. Starting next week we are going use the Northern Network News to honor three students each week for the next three weeks.

Nursing Program Helps Local Front Line Health Care Workers



MSU-Northern's Nursing program is donating facemasks and personal protective equipment to our local medical providers at Havre Fire Department and Northern Montana Hospital. Nursing instructors, Mary Pizzini and Wendy Tilleman, are loading a cart of supplies to take to the front line health care workers.

Go the Social Distance...



Show me Something Northern

Sammi Watson staying safe in Joplin, Montana



Amber Otton & Jared Miller (MSUN-alumni 2013 & 2015) staying safe in Nome, Alaska

Click here for the latest information on how MSU-Northern is responding to COVID-19.



MSU-Northern developed a COVID-19 website to keep the MSU-Northern family informed and safe. [Access here...](#)

Stay Healthy While at Home - Video



MSU-Northern Assistant Professor Chad Spangler helps everyone stay healthy with his Total 10 Home Workout

Total-10 Home Workout

1. Push-up: 15 times (regular or modified)
2. Side Leg Lifts: 10 times each side (hips on the ground or off the ground)
3. High Knees: 60 times (fast or slow)
4. Crunches: 15 times
5. Jumping Jacks: 60 times
6. Stretch: 4 times, 30 sec. each (Hamstrings and calves)
7. Burpees: 10 times (with or without push-up)
8. Dead Bugs: 15 times
9. Swimmers: 20 times each arm
10. Jumping Jacks: 60 times

MSU-Northern Block-out Bingo

With Tammy Boles

Hey Northern students, keep up the good work at practicing social distancing! We on campus are missing your smiling faces and hope you're being safe and healthy. To help make your time away a bit more enjoyable, we have created two Northern bingo cards with various activities that you can do at home. All you have to do is to do every activity on one or both of the cards. When you have completed an activity, simply cross out that particular box. Once you have successfully blocked out all the spaces simply take a

picture and send it to me at tammy.boles@msun.edu for a chance to win a \$250 gift card for books at the Northern Bookstore for fall semester.

You have until April 30 to get your card submitted. The drawing will be on May 1 and posted to our social media accounts, as well as, a direct notification to the winner

[Download Card #1 Here...](#)

[Download Card #2 Here...](#)

Virtual Cooking class with Chef Becky Toth – April 15

MSU-Northern's is proud to have an outstanding chef on staff who loves to share her cooking expertise. Check Northern's social media this Monday to give her your input on what you want her to cook. Then check it again on Tuesday to find out what you should purchase so you can make the same dinner with her at home. Her personal cooking class will take place on Wednesday, April 15, at 5:00 p.m.



Athletics



Campus Events

Visit our website

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