



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

Date: January 10, 2022

To: PVAMU Students

From: James M. Palmer

Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Merlyn Pulikkathara

Faculty Senate, Speaker

Re: P/NP Grading Option Determination for Fall 2021

In December and into January, students have sought to reinstate the Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading options that were in place from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021. Requests emphasized that while we returned to the face-to-face modality for course delivery, the pandemic has continued to disrupt our daily lives. We acknowledge that we are by no means past the pandemic.

Following analysis of the requests, guidance that has been issued by associations or other groups, grade data from the fall of 2021 and fall of 2019, and what others in the Texas A&M University System have done, we will not retroactively implement the P/NP option.

This decision was not reached lightly by us, the college/school deans and academic directors, and selected faculty senate representatives who examined the request thoroughly. Several data points were considered, particularly the overall Fall 2019 semester GPA at 2.78 compared with a 2.70 in Fall 2021 and the percent of A, B and C grades in both semesters: 82.9% in Fall 2019 compared to 81.9% in Fall 2021. Further, several entities have issued guidance and/or cautionary advice about using pass-fail grading, including [articles in U.S. News & World Report](#) among others such as the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#) (AAMC). Finally, this group considered that students placed on academic suspension continue to be allowed to register for classes during this time period due to the pandemic.

Prairie View A&M University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Standard 10.4 of the Principles of Accreditation requires that an institution place primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty.