

College Responses to COVID-19 regarding Admissions of Prospective Students

(Highlighting added – focus on colleges' approach to Pass/Fail grading)

[University of Pennsylvania](#)

Our admissions process has always relied on what we call “whole person review:” the practice of considering each student’s individual context and environment as we learn through their applications about their lived experiences, their achievements, and the academic and personal contributions they have made in their respective communities. This philosophy will continue in the age of COVID-19.

We are committed to continuing to work with all of our applicants and their counselors to understand the ways in which their lives have had to shift in light of COVID-19, and to support students in their efforts to represent those shifts in their Penn applications.

Please see below for answers to some of our frequently asked questions.

How will we review remote education? What does that mean for prospective students?

Schools and districts are making the best decisions they can at this moment in the interest of their students' health and educational experience. We respect and support the decisions schools are making, and recognize these decisions are outside of the students' control. We expect students to make the most of the educational opportunities available to them regardless of whether that takes place in person or virtually.

Do we support secondary schools switching to pass/fail grading options at this time?

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[Princeton University](#)

Link above is to a “Statement to Applicants to Princeton’s Class of 2025” (current Juniors). Excerpt below:

The present worldwide health crisis has meant that most high schools, colleges, and universities (Princeton included) have moved to remote learning. In some cases, schools have moved to a pass/fail grading option for this spring semester.

Please know that if you decide to apply to Princeton, we will accept whatever grading format your high school used to end this school year.

[Villanova University](#)

- My high school has switched to a pass/fail grading system for this semester. Will that impact my future application/decision?

During these unprecedented times, Villanova University is fully aware of how curriculum is being impacted. For example, Villanova is offering current students the ability to take classes with grades of satisfactory/unsatisfactory this semester.

Any shifts to your grading scale over this period of time will be considered in our review of transcripts. We are mindful of all of the adjustments that have been made in response to our current global climate, and you will not be penalized for any changes made outside of your control.

West Chester University

If my school goes to alternate grading, will that negatively impact students for admission next year?

- The Office of Admissions will be as accommodating as possible during this time. If you school decides to implement pass/fail or another alternate mode of grading, we will accept it. Students will not be penalized.

Lehigh University

Prospective students for the Class of 2025 and beyond:

Our priority is the health and well-being of current and future members of the Lehigh family. We continue to follow the guidance of university leaders, who are making decisions based on the most current information. When we resume our campus visitation program, we will update our website and [Events Calendar](#) accordingly. We hope to be able to welcome prospective and admitted students to campus for visits when it is safe to do so.

As we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, Lehigh understands that students have experienced a variety of challenges - from changes in the educational systems and AP exam policies, to financial and personal losses for families. Please keep in mind that the following measures are in place and should assure you of our commitment to students:

- **Flexibility with alternative grading methods:** Lehigh's Office of Admissions will continue to review transcripts based on the individual school's practices and policies during our review process. Alternative grading methods being utilized during the COVID-19 pandemic will be honored in the same manner as the school's traditional grading scale.
- Scores from the new online format for AP exams will be honored according to our [existing policies](#).
- We will be sensitive to the challenges posed by postponed test dates and the introduction of online at-home SAT and ACT testing.

As the world adjusts to the current circumstances Lehigh will continue to act with sensitivity as schools and families make decisions that best suit their students. You can find continued updates on the [COVID-19 webpage](#).