Is there any change to how GPAs will be calculated?

As a general principle, UQ courses will be graded and GPAs calculated as usual. However, where some types of assessment are heavily impacted by the current situation (such as health placement courses), grading in some courses may change to become Pass/Fail.

Other Universities are making large changes to their grading systems. Why isn't UQ doing that?

Our students have told us that academic outcomes are their main priority, along with adapting to online learning and receiving financial and wellbeing support when needed.

With regards to GPA, we have revised our academic framework to allow students to complete this semester’s assessment and if they are not confident that they have performed well, they can apply to withdraw without academic penalty until 13 July 2020 - two days after the completion of our final semester exam block.

There are many students at UQ who are seeking to improve their GPA in order to be considered for Honours or to transfer to another program, which requires numeric grades. We are also thinking about the longer-term situation, after the pandemic is ended, and believe that it is academically right for students to receive the grades they are awarded.

What is UQ doing to help?

We acknowledge there are many students who are concerned about how this situation may impact on their grades. We understand this and have put in place the following mechanisms to support you:

- We introduced online learning as early as we could, so you could experience the new approach and could withdraw prior to any financial or academic penalty.
- We will permit any student to withdraw without academic penalty until 2 days after the official examination period (but prior to release of grades). In other words, you will be able to experience all of your assessment, and if you feel that your ability to perform to the standard you would like was unduly impacted, then you can withdraw without academic penalty.
- Assessment and examination adjustments have been made to many courses to take into account the reality of the current situation, including the transition to online study.
- Usually extensions on assessment items and approval to sit deferred exams are only approved in limited circumstances, with a high standard of evidence (such as a medical certificate). This semester we will require only a signed statement from you identifying the difficulties you have encountered.
- There is provision in UQ policies for students who cannot sit a deferred exam to defer their deferred exam. We will view these requests sympathetically.
- Once grades are released, students who have encountered exceptional circumstances can apply for changes to their final grades, seeking late withdrawal without academic penalty.
- Studies Reports and Official Academic Transcripts will be annotated to reflect that Semester 1 2020 has been impacted by COVID-19

Why won't UQ allow me to choose whether my whole semester is Pass/Fail?

We know that some other Universities have chosen to take this step, and we have thought very hard about it and discussed it. We do not think it is the right approach. We believe that all students enrolled in a course should be graded on the same scheme. In a Pass/Fail scheme, students would lose the opportunity to receive a benefit to their GPA or employability by achieving higher grades. We also believe that the approaches we have described above will help support you and your assessment performance during these difficult times.

If you have additional questions, please contact Student Services on +61 7 3365 1704 or student.services@uq.edu.au