

VSBPE

Date: 7 April 2020

Item: Pass/Fail Course Options for Spring 2020 coursework

ITEM: Many Institutes of Higher Education are offering Pass/Fail options for the spring 2020 semester.

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No action needs to be taken.

BACKGROUND: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) are offering Pass/Fail options for classes for the spring 2020 academic semester. There is little consistency across IHEs. At times, individual colleges or departments within IHEs are making different decisions on whether Pass/Fail options will be considered and what the terms of those Pass/Fail options are. In some cases, Pass/Fail courses are mandatory. In others, they are optional. Likewise, there is no agreed upon definition of what constitutes a “Pass.”

Therefore, the Office has determined that it is proper to accept all courses receiving a “pass’ as defined by the IHEs issuing the determination taken during the Spring 2020 semester, with the exception of student teaching courses. For student teaching courses, while the Office will accept a Pass, all Education Preparation Programs (EPP) are required to attest that a Pass for student teaching courses is commensurate to a B or better.

We currently have no rule or policy governing Pass/Fail courses offered at EPPs. We plan to draft a policy in the near future addressing Pass/Fail options in EPPs.