

# FAQ: Boston College Academic Policy Modifications for Spring 2020 Semester Abroad Programs

## Pass/Fail

If you wish to take one or all study abroad courses pass/fail, please email your Office of International Programs (OIP) advisor the course title. You must make a request before the host institution's final exam period.

### ***When is the deadline to declare a course pass/fail?***

- All students will be able to designate study abroad courses taken this spring 2020 semester as pass/fail either before your host institution's final exam period begins or before your final exam takes place, whichever is earlier.

### ***How many courses can I take pass/fail?***

- There is no limit on the number of courses you can take pass/fail this spring 2020 semester.

### ***If I designate a required course for my concentration/major/minor/core pass/fail, will it still fulfill that requirement?***

- Yes. spring 2020 courses that are required for your concentration/major/minor/core can be taken pass/fail and still fulfill the requirement if you receive a pass. If you fail the course, it will not fulfill the requirement.

### ***What is considered a passing grade?***

- For BC program participants, consistent with existing policy, an undergraduate student who earns a BC grade of D- or higher according to our [grade translation scale](#) will receive a grade of Pass for the course.
- External program students must earn a grade of C- or above to receive transfer credits and this rule still applies to BC's modified pass/fail policy. A grade of C- or above must be recorded on your transcript in order to receive transfer credit with a passing grade. Even if your external program offers the option to take all courses pass/fail, you must confirm that the minimum passing grade is C- or above.

### ***Once I declare a course pass/fail, can I change my mind later in the semester?***

- No. Once you declare a course pass/fail, the decision is irreversible.

### ***How will this calculate into my GPA?***

- For BC program participants, a “pass” will not count towards the GPA calculation, but a failing grade will.
- For external program participants, grades on external programs are not translated; grades will appear on your transcript as transfer credit, but will not factor into your GPA. Please keep in mind that courses with a grade of D+ or lower, Failing, Withdrawal, or Incomplete grades are not eligible for transfer credit and will not appear on your BC record.

### ***Can I take a yearlong course or courses as pass/fail?***

- Yes, if the course is still in progress, you may take a yearlong course pass/fail.

### ***I've already completed a course this spring 2020 semester, can I declare it pass/fail?***

- No, these changes in pass/fail prohibitions are only for courses in progress.

## **Dropping and Withdrawing Courses**

Students are expected to register for 12 BC credits or more to maintain full-time student status. If your decision to drop or withdraw from courses would cause you to fall below full-time status, please email [oipreg@bc.edu](mailto:oipreg@bc.edu).

### ***What is the difference between a “drop” and a “withdraw”?***

**For external students:** If you “drop” or “withdraw” a class, the course will not appear on your BC record.

**For BC program participants:** If you “drop” a class, the course will not appear on your BC record. If you “withdraw” from a class, the course will appear on your BC transcript with a withdrawal notation of “W” next to it. Students who withdraw from a study abroad course will have a “W” recorded on the host institution's transcript, which will be recorded to BC's academic record. Also, all courses taken abroad are entered into a student's BC record as if they were regular BC courses regardless of W, F, or Incomplete grades.

### ***When is the deadline to drop one of my study abroad courses?***

- The deadline to drop a course is two weeks prior to when your host institution's final exam period begins. If you decide to drop a course, please email the course title to your OIP advisor. Once you submit the request, upon OIP approval, the decision is irreversible. After you submit your request to the OIP, please also check with your host

institution whether you can drop the course from their schedule, so the course will not appear on your host institution's transcript.

***When is the deadline to withdraw from a course?***

- You can withdraw from a course this semester and the request must be made either before your host institution's final exam period begins or before your final exam takes place, whichever is earlier. If you decide to withdraw from a course, please email the course title to your OIP advisor. Once you submit the request, upon OIP approval, the decision is irreversible. Please also check with your host institution if they can withdraw you from the course. If it's possible, this will prevent you from receiving a final grade on your host institution's transcript.

***What if my host institution does not offer a withdrawal policy or course drop?***

- Regardless of the host institution's academic policies, for spring 2020 courses, you may drop or withdraw a course as long as you submit a request by the deadline.
  - Drop deadline (without a "W" appearing on your record): two weeks before the host university's final exam period
  - Withdrawal deadline: before the host university's final exam period

***Will the courses I drop or withdraw from remain on my transcript at the host institution?***

- The answer depends on the academic policies of your host institution. Some institutions will still record your course and any grade that you have earned, including a "withdrawal", if the latter is permitted. Students are encouraged to check with their host institution before making a final decision on a withdrawal or drop, especially if they will eventually be required to submit a host-institution transcript from for graduate school, for example.

Updated 3/26/20