

March 25, 2020

Dear Students:

All of us in LAUNCH and the University Honors Program hope that you are staying safe and well, practicing appropriate physical distancing, hand-washing, and covering coughs and sneezes while also maintaining (and even strengthening!) social connections through various technological platforms.

This statement is intended to provide guidance on how the COVID-19 pandemic disruption affects University Honors Program requirements and expectations. I hope that this will answer questions and alleviate concerns, but I also understand that this is a difficult time and that circumstances are changing. With that in mind, if you have questions or concerns not addressed here, please contact me at jkotinek@tamu.edu and I will do my best to answer those for you.

We will update this statement as needed based on changing circumstances:

COVID-19 Resources

LAUNCH has compiled a number of resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic and related questions at a special microsite: <http://launch.tamu.edu/covid-19>. Please visit this site to discover how closures are affecting LAUNCH programs, research experiences, as well as how to give and get support.

S/U Grading & Honors

President Young has announced that students may change their grading option for any course to S/U through 5:00 PM on Tuesday, April 28. Below are answers to questions that you may have as this pertains to Honors:

- **What impact do S/U graded courses have on University Honors Program or Honors Fellows distinction requirements?**

Changing your grading option to S/U for Honors courses will not affect progress toward Honors Fellows distinction or University Honors Program requirements.

- **How do S/U graded courses impact my GPA?**

S/U grades do not count toward GPA calculations, so you should consider if/how an S/U may affect your efforts to raise GPA. Students on probation for GPA in the University Honors

Program will automatically have their probationary status extended until they have the opportunity to bring their grades up once classes return to normal.

- **Do S/U graded courses count toward Latin Honors requirements?**

The Registrar has confirmed that courses graded S/U will count toward the 60 TAMU hours needed to qualify for Latin Honors recognition at graduation (see [Student Rule 15](#)). A grade of S will not increase your GPA, and a grade of U will not decrease your GPA for Spring 2020.

- **Will this impact my college/departmental Honors distinction?**

College & departmental programs may have different requirements and we encourage you to visit with the respective director(s) of any other programs you are participating in to see if/how changing grading options might affect your progress toward those distinctions (see contact information at <http://honorsprograms.tamu.edu>).

- **Do S/U graded courses affect my medical/law/professional school application?**

Some graduate and professional schools may not accept S/U graded course work to meet prerequisite requirements. Please check with Professional School Advising in the Career Center to see if/how this affects your plans.

- **How do I change a course to S/U?**

If you have questions about changing your grading option for a course, please contact your departmental advisor.

HSC Participation Requirements

Honors Student Council (HSC) President Jeremy Bartlett has announced that participation requirements are being waived for the Spring 2020 semester given the need for social distancing and shelter-in-place requirements. Please watch your email for announcements about any online discussions or presentations that may be scheduled.

Course Contracts

We encourage you to be in communication with your instructor to discuss if/how expectations for your contract have changed along with any changes that have taken place with the course syllabus.

Honors Advising

Need to talk with an Honors Advisor? Our Advising staff are holding online advising appointments via Zoom.

Please visit <http://tx.ag/HonorsAdvising> (select "LAUNCH: Honors Advising" from the drop-down menu of services) to schedule an appointment.

Best,

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FROM PROMISE TO ACHIEVEMENT.

Pronouns: He, Him, His