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To: bme-major@virginia.edu
Subject: Grading Policies in Spring 2020
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Dear Students,

I know there is a great deal of stress among you about the new grading policy. I want to provide what guidance I can, though the information out there is still developing. It is my understanding that a written policy is forthcoming.

For those going on to professional or grad school, we would suggest that you not take any pre-requisite courses as CR/NC or P/F; and we would let you know that CR/NC and P/F courses are not included in the ACMA GPA calculations (See attached, taken directly from their manual).

However, season is like no other. Millions of college students are in this situation, and all medical and grad school admission committees will need to treat the Spring 2020 semester differently from any other. Even medical schools themselves are shutting down Spring training. Instructors may not be teaching at their best, and students may not be learning at their best—no matter what grading scheme is chosen.

I contacted the admissions staff of our own medical school, and though conversations about specifics have yet begun, they feel they will give great grace to the Spring 2020 semester for all applicants. BME's own graduate admissions team says the same.

That being said, staying focused on protecting or increasing your cumulative GPA is always wise. Each student should understand what their cumulative GPA is now, and make decisions accordingly. Talk with your advisors, and feel free to ask your instructors for information regarding typical grade spreads for any assignments you might have left in the semester.

And no matter the grading option you choose, be sure and continue doing your best in each class and on each team project, given your particular personal circumstances. Likewise, let's all be understanding that there is an enormous diversity of situations your classmates find themselves in right now. So not only give yourself grace during this time, be sure to give each other grace as well.

Please know we are all here for you, and will do our very best to help you through this semester and any downstream consequences.

Also, do not forget about the [Undergrad Forum](#)—use this as a place to ask your questions about the grading policy, exams, etc.

Thank you,

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