



April 16, 2020

Dear Students,

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, and as a follow up to last week's [student letter](#), you have special options and new deadlines that benefit you for Spring 2020 grading. Special options include Excused Withdrawal, Withdrawal, and the Pass/No Pass grading option.

With the extended timeline below of June 12, 2020, you have a considerable amount of time to engage fully in your classes, take advantage of many support services, and succeed in your classes before deciding which option is best for you for each class. **Please review all options available and consult with a Counselor at (562) 908-3410 or counselingcenter@riohondo.edu** to discuss your unique situation and educational goals before making your informed decision.

Your success is important to us and we are here to support you every step of the way.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- At the end of the Spring semester you will receive a letter grade, or if you elected a Pass/No Pass (P/NP) you will receive that mark.
- **New beneficial options allow you to select or change your option until June 12, 2020! You can select or change to one of the options below.**

<u>PASS/NO PASS</u>
<p>You have an option to have each of your courses graded with a standard grade <u>or</u> as Pass/No Pass (P/NP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some transfer institutions (CSU, UC, private, and out-of-state colleges and universities) could require that certain courses be taken for a letter grade and/or may restrict the number of transfer units that may be taken as P/NP. Please consult with a Río Hondo College Counselor or the Transfer Center for further information.• If you are part of a specialized program (Veterans, Athletics, International Students, etc.) please reach out to them directly to determine if there would be an adverse effect to your benefits or eligibility.• To select the Pass/No Pass option, please click here.

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Excused Withdrawal

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASSES

- **Excused Withdrawal (EW)** – Due to the impact of Covid-19, the EW grade is an option for all students. If you are not using the California Promise Grant or Financial Aid, **you will automatically be approved and issued a refund of paid enrollment fees.**
 - ❖ **How will this impact my Financial Aid?** Due to changes from the Federal government for Spring 2020 Semester only, this will not impact you. It will not trigger a repayment or negatively impact your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.
 - ❖ **How will this impact my academic records?** The EW does not count toward academic progress probation and does not count as an attempt for course repeat rules.
 - ❖ **How do I withdraw with an EW?** To withdraw with an EW, please log into AccessRIO and DROP any course(s) for which you wish to withdraw. You will automatically be given an EW. **Again, before you do, please make an appointment with a Counselor.**
- **Withdrawal and removal of course from transcript (no course notation on the transcript).**

This option is only valuable to a few students. **It is important to meet with a Counselor prior to choosing the option to withdraw.** Students who may benefit are those who are in a competitive program such as Nursing or STEM, or students who are planning to attend graduate school.

This option could impact pending transfer admission application(s). If you already indicated you were enrolled in a course during spring 2020, which no longer appears on your transcript, this could cause your transfer admission application to be denied.

If you have questions about your transfer application, please contact a Río Hondo College Counselor or the Transfer Center for further information.

If you are not using the California Promise Grant or Financial Aid, you may request a refund of your enrollment fees.

To request a withdrawal which does not appear on your transcripts, please contact your Counselor or contact the Counseling Office at (562) 908-3410 or counselingcenter@riohondo.edu.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

We encourage all prospective Fall 2020 university transfer students to meet with a Counselor. The UC, CSU and private universities are being flexible; however, policies will vary between institutions and between majors within the same university.

Information pertaining to CSU can be found [here](#).

Information pertaining to the UC system can be found [here](#).

Below are the key highlights of these changes:

CSU Policy: allows you to satisfy your GE Oral Communication, English 101, Critical Thinking, and Math courses with a Pass (“P”) (same standard practice).

CSU Policy: allows you to satisfy major preparation courses with a grade of a “P” if taken Winter 2020, Spring 2020 and Summer 2020.

UC Policy: allows flexibility in the maximum number of units completed with a “P”.

Major preparation courses have not been determined yet: some campuses require specific letter grades. We are expecting further guidance soon, which we will post in the Student Update section of our COVID-19 webpage found [here](#).

Some private universities are being flexible with P/NP. For example, Biola University will allow “P” grades for admissions. We are working on gathering information about other private universities.

You are encouraged to apply to multiple schools/systems. It is important to know how these policy changes may impact transfer admissions. Please discuss your transfer plans with a counselor. Counselors are providing services by email, phone, live chats, and Cranium Café.

REFUNDS

Río Hondo is currently determining the process for which refunds will be calculated and distributed.

- Spring 2020 Student Health Fees and Parking Fees paid will be refunded at 50%.
- Summer 2020 Parking Fees paid will be refunded at 100%.
- Enrollment fees for withdrawals will be refunded appropriately.
 - **Enrollment refunds are not available to students with a CA Promise Grant or Financial Aid.**
- Parking and Health Fee refunds will be distributed by the end of Spring Semester 2020.

CONTACT US:

For questions regarding how this may impact your **transfer plans**, please contact:

Counseling Center

(562) 908-3410 or counselingcenter@riohondo.edu

Transfer Center

(562) 317-0518 or transfercenter@riohondo.edu

For questions regarding your **financial aid**, please contact:

Financial Aid

(562) 463-3370 or financialaid@riohondo.edu

For questions regarding a **refund**, please contact:

Accounting and Finance

(562) 463-7097

For all other questions, please contact:

Admissions & Records

(562) 463-7639 or admissions@riohondo.edu

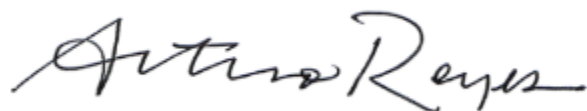
To best serve you during these times of continued online instruction and remote student services, we launched a student services virtual Zoom webpage to immediately answer your questions and provide pertinent information. All you need to do is [click here](#) to talk with a counselor or staff – LIVE – during virtual office hours. Attached are two easy to follow guides to help you navigate the new Zoom webpage from computers/laptops and from cell phones.

If you need resources such as a Chromebook, groceries, housing referrals or information on COVID-19, please [click here](#).

Thanks again for your resilience and flexibility during this health crisis.

Río Hondo College cares about you!

Cordially,



Dr. Arturo Reyes

Superintendent/President

