



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW

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Letter from Dean Edward Iacobucci Regarding Grading During the Winter, 2020 Academic Term

To Whom It May Concern,

The Winter term of the 2019-2020 academic year was profoundly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, the Faculty of Law converted to a **mandatory credit/no-credit grading scheme for all JD students in all courses that ended in April 2020, including full year courses**. We considered maintaining our grading scheme, moving to some kind of elective credit/no credit scheme and moving to a general credit/no credit scheme. There were good arguments for each option, but only the general credit/no credit scheme avoided problematic evaluative distinctions at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting students in highly differentiated ways that were independent of academic commitment and ability.

Please note that while much of the wider University transitioned to an optional credit/no credit grading system that semester, at the Faculty of Law the transition was *not* optional: all students' marks were Credit or No Credit in every course.

Given this gap in information regarding the Winter, 2020 semester, please allow me to take this opportunity to remind you that the Faculty has an outstanding student body by any measure, and the strength of our incoming classes continues to grow. The distinguished reputation of the law school attracts the finest applicants from a broad range of backgrounds and life experiences, who in turn contribute to the lively intellectual climate fundamental to our academic programs. This was no less the case during this problematic term. With over 2000 applicants for just over 200 places in our first year, we enroll superb students. At 3.85, the median GPA (calculated on the best three years of undergraduate study) of our incoming students exceeds that of all other Canadian law schools. LSAT scores are another indicator of academic strength, and our students are tops in Canada, and place among the top law schools internationally. It is in part because of the strength of our student body, and our alumni, that the Times Higher Education rankings place the Faculty of Law first in Canada, and in the top ten of law schools in the world.

In closing, whether you are considering an employment application, or some other outreach, from affected students, please take these circumstances into account. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about grading during the pandemic. Thank you for your understanding.

Best,

Edward Iacobucci
Dean and James M. Tory Professor of Law