

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST



Dear Golden Flashes,

Congratulations to our May graduates and congratulations to you all for completing an unprecedented and unusual semester. You did it! I am so proud of everything you have accomplished during these challenging times. The purpose of this message is let you know that there are still options available to you to help you preserve your GPA for this semester and successfully advance in your program, or graduate.

Grade Options

You should be able to see your final grades on Wednesday May 13th. Importantly, if your grades are not as good as you had hoped, you may still be able to opt to take a course for Pass/Fail until Monday, May 18th at 11:59 PM. [More than 90% of Kent State programs allow Pass/Fail grades. Talk to your advisor](#) before taking action in order to best understand the consequences of taking a course for Pass/Fail. The benefits of taking a course for Pass/Fail is that it will not impact your GPA. You will receive credit for the Pass grade (Y) and no credit for the Fail grade (Z). Please find the form [here](#) to request to take a course for Pass/Fail and submit your completed form electronically by May 18th, 11:59 p.m.

Transcript Notation

I realize this was an unusual semester. To document the circumstances of this semester, a notation will be placed on your transcript for the Spring 2020 semester that simply states, "**Significant disruption due to COVID19 pandemic.**" Thus, anyone evaluating your transcript from this point in time onward, will remember the major disruption to the semester and evaluate your transcript appropriately.

Grading Policies for the Summer and Fall

Now that this semester is over and we move into Summer Sessions, please note that all grading policies will return to those that were in place prior to the start of the spring semester disruption. I have, however, asked instructors to continue to be flexible around documentation for absences and documentation around requesting incompletes, as I know that there will continue to be extenuating circumstances in the upcoming months.

Additional Financial Aid

The COVID-19 pandemic may have created financial hardships for you and your family. **If your finances may be preventing you from continuing your education at Kent State this fall, we can help you stay on your path to graduation.** Visit <https://www.kent.edu/kent/tuesday-april-21-2020/students/kent-state-emergency-grant> for information about Kent State emergency grants that are available.

Flashes Forward to Fall

Because Flashes keep moving toward their goals despite challenges, I urge you to maintain your momentum and continue your academic journey at Kent State this fall. My greatest hope is that we will be able to resume face-to-face instruction on all of our Kent State campuses in August, including residence hall living on the Kent Campus. And we are planning for just that. But your safety and well-being will always be our top priority. So, as we continue to plan for our fall semester, we will seek advice from Kent State's own world-renowned public health experts, along with up-to-date state and federal guidelines, to create the best—and safest—academic and university life experiences for you.

All of us at Kent State are dedicated to continuing to provide an exceptional academic curriculum. And our nationally recognized student support programs will help you graduate and prepare you for your career. Remember what got you to Kent State in the first place—the programs, the people, the beautiful grounds, the funky clubs. It's still here. Waiting on you to come home. We can't wait to see you back on campus this fall to keep moving forward!

As you begin your summer plans, I hope you will take a minute for a deep breath and reflect on the fact that you made it through a semester without parallel—one that we couldn't imagine when we began the academic year. But you did it. You did it! Thank you for your perseverance. Thank you for your strength. Thank you for your patience. And thank you for your Kent State Spirit!

All my best!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'M' and a cursive 'y'.

Melody Tankersley
Interim Senior Vice President and Provost
Kent State University