

Student Concerns Regarding the Transition to Online Learning

A petition was started by a fellow KSU student regarding Students at Kent State University that are in good academic standing to be done.

The creator of the petition writes:

This petition is for a proposal to allow students who are in good standing academically to be allowed to use their current grade as their final grade for the semester. Being that a lot of teachers do not have formal use with technology this is setting students up who are in academic good standing to fail. It's not fair to the students and it's not fair to the faculty. As you said it best "Flashes take care of Flashes", but this does not seem to be taking care of us or the faculty of the university. If a student is not in academic good standing then they should be required to continue their classes and course work in said class that they are not passing. I think this is a fair proposal for the students of Kent State University.

This will allow students who are in academic good standing in their classes to be allowed to use their current grade to pass them. This means that if a student has a passing grade in said class they will be able to use that grade as their final grade. It will allow for school to go smoother and allow for faculty to focus on those who need more help raising their grade. It will allow those who are failing a class or who are not in academic good standing with the university to focus on school and be more engaged with the teacher. As well, the opportunity for them to gain good academic standing before the next semester in the fall.

As of 5:30pm, 4,000 people have signed this petition.

Some comments regarding the issue:

"I am in good academic standing & having my classes moved online is very challenging and unfair"

"I think this petition is a bit extreme but has many valid points. There are reasons why some classes are only offered in class and it is because the material is hard to reproduce in an online setting. I would love to see Kent state take some executive action regarding this topic but the whole world is unprepared for this event, what can you do. Go flashes"

Online classes are NOT what I paid for. If I wanted to take online classes I would've registered at one of the other locations and paid much less. Why am I accumulating debt for some

professors with no online instruction experience to feel their way through the dark and provide inadequate material.

There is so much going on in every student's life right now. We all have to quickly move out of the dorms and have our entire lives and plans uprooted. To expect us to still do well in our classes despite many of them not being designed for online instruction is insane.

My professors are unable to convey the information I need to learn in the class through collaborate ultra and other online ways of teaching.

I think this is a fair expectation when the university charged us for facilities, staff, and continues other things that are no longer being used. Then forcing students to move back and then telling them they need certain things to continue their education. I think either give students the choice or refund the additional tuition that was charged to them to be in classes at main campus as opposed to the cost of it being at a regional campus. Since we are no longer actually on main campus anymore.

I'd like this petition to be more specific that it is an OPTION for students in good standing to use their current grades for their final grades, rather than an automatic application. Some people I think, myself included, would like to finish out their semester fully. However, for those being displaced, potentially without access to internet and the necessary technology, or the sufficient time and stability to maintain the grades they've earned thus far, this is unfair. Their grades will suffer not because of their efforts, but because of the current situation. For them, I'm signing this petition. Those in good standing ought to have the option available should they need it.

My kid has excellent grades right now and as a freshman adjusted quite well to college learning. This change has severely disrupted her learning process. Her stress caused by teachers not being able to teach well online is through the roof. Seems unfair.

No one needs to suffer getting bad grades if they dont do well online, especially those who tried while in class

these students have worked for this their entire life...dont take it away for reasons out of their control.

By daughter in on the deans list. But with the online platform her grades will plummet. It's not fair that the kids who are doing well have to suffer by learning in ways that aren't conducive to them.

I get better grades with in-person classes. I feel that my grades will be greatly negatively affected by this change.

Most students didn't sign up for online classes for a reason. Many of us struggle with them.

While I may not be in the honors college, I am still in good academic standing. I am signing not my fellow flashes, and those who may not have access to these online classes as easily as others. We are in a very difficult situation, and modern problems call for modern solutions.

I'm an Honors College student in good academic standing, but even on day 2 of remote learning I can tell that online classes will be significantly harder for me and my grades may drop. Even just to reduce the workload in each class would be better but this just isn't working. I have lost 3 jobs, my job at home doesn't have many hours for me, and moving back home took a lot of physical and emotional effort. We have all been through so much and we deserve a break. I keep saying that when bad things happen at Hogwarts, they stopped school and cancelled exams, so why can't we?

Many students have lost their jobs, been evacuated out of their dorms etc and the last thing on their minds is studying and writing papers! Make our lives easier!

I'm a Kent state student and we didn't ask for this virus to take control of our lives including losing our jobs! A lot of our teachers do not know how to even use blackboard because they aren't tech savvy so many of us have not been updated on our work

This is only fair as it is so close to completely being finished with schooling and keeping good grades.

I am terrible at online classes and I'm concerned about my grades dropping

If a student is in good standing they should be finished for the semester

We need to support these students!

Because times are hard enough. Make smart decisions for everyone's sake.

Good students should not have to start over

I have a Laboratory for my Biological Diversity and all the activities can only happen in class. It is also very difficult to have to do everything else online for my other classes too. My four page

essay for my Modern America class is going to be uneasy when places I have to visit are completely closed down.

Look, life is hard enough and we've all been thrown a wrench in our plans.

I believe it's only fair and the students all deserve it for having their semester unfairly cut short

I paid for in person classes and my Learning is best in that setting.

I am a student at KSU. I work two jobs just to afford life's expenses. The stress we students have gone through and are enduring has never been seen before. I'm signing for peace of mind.

online classes are more difficult to focus on than regular classes, especially with the pandemic that's going on right now.

This makes sense for students that have good academic standing.

I am in good academic standing but because a few of my classes are requiring attendance in a virtual classroom I can't find a new job to support myself and contribute to my education

I have no access to complete all of my assignments online.

These classes were not meant to be taught online and it is going to affect the students grades negatively gpa will be affected and that is not fair

Online class is so difficult for certain subjects; our GPA will suffer.

I just feel like classes won't be efficient online. I tried it, but it's just not the same in-person. And my grades could potentially slip. Please consider this change.

these online classes are proving to be really challenging already, and they've barely begun. i'd like to focus on staying healthy and being with my family at this time, not finishing projects that we're not meant to be done over an online format.

I am a senior at Kent state and for all the difficult times that everyone is going through and not having access to libraries and other public spaces it makes it very hard for us to finish the school year. Let us just be done!!!

Letting students pass who are in good standing allows those students to focus more on their health and safety and also helps alleviate pressure on the school to make teachers switch to

online to only a couple few. I would much rather stay and get my grades up and also have students who are good leave.

School is that last think on my mind right now with everything going on and I feel like my grades are gonna be very negatively affected because of this.

having to drop everything and leave our friends, our dorms, our meal plans, and our way of life, and go back to situations at home that may not be ideal is rough enough. allowing for students in good academic standing to have the option to submit their grades as their final ones (perhaps with each professor's permission) would alleviate some of this stress.

Because online classes are not worth it and are too difficult to complete for other classes.

The remote learning isn't fair for out of state/country students that must scramble to get back home and have no place to live, while also trying to focus on completing school work. In-person lab quality will be deteriorated without the proper instruction and help from in-person professors.

There are several students that are near and dear to me that this is having a traumatic effect on.

Not everyone can adjust their learning structure to an online class! If they're in good standing they are probably better at learning inside the classroom.

I am a graduate student, with two school age children, who has a 4.0 GPA. I am struggling to transition to online classes, teach my kids from home, and help those in my life who need me.

The added stress of what's going on makes it difficult to focus on classes, especially when the university buildings or coffee shops are closed to do this work. I cannot focus at my own house for homework so it has been very hard

I'm a student at Kent and support the graduation students.

I am a student with good academic standing. Online class are hard with my major since we have to do a lot of face to face presentations. This is just stressful and shouldn't be done.

I am a student and do not have time to focus on school with all this craziness going on in the world.

I don't have WiFi in my house.

My reason for signing as a graduate student is to allow students of good academic standing to receive a pass in all classes. Personally, I prefer to learn and take my courses in person and since I cannot do that, there should be some lead-way in addition to assignment extensions.

As a Kent State student I signed up for my classes to be taken in person. Many students are under stress, asked to evacuate their rooms and studio stuff, move home, and deal with the stress of everything going on around us.

I'm signing this because moving classes online has really changed everything. Try doing lesson plans in ASL on the computer. No it doesn't work.

This seems like a very far reach, but my grades have never been this good and I do not want the lack of preparedness of some of my professors to affect my grade.

I am a 3.6 GPA Kent State student and none of my teachers understand how to use these online resources

Personally, I have found it extremely distracting trying to work at home. My mom's work also made her work from home and our internet can not support both of us working from home. She obviously needs the internet connection for work because that is what is keeping us afloat. I would go to the Library or Starbucks/Panera to do my work, but they are all closed. On top of that, none of my professors have a clue what they are doing and are no longer doing office hours. I think either passing everyone this semester regardless of their grade would be a good move. I also think allowing students to audit the rest of the semester who already have a good grade in the class is a good idea. Students who want to boost their grade should also be given the opportunity to do so. - Vala Zeinali

I have a 3.88 GPA and have completed schooling in various parts of the world. I have been able to overcome and adapt to many difficult situations to complete school work. Many of these challenges include bad wifi, difficulty with/lack of technology, or lack of instruction. However, self-isolation has created a whole new challenge that is mental, physical and spiritual, which takes a lot away from school. Unfortunately, I am a student with a compromised immune system. I have respiratory, immune-suppressing, and cardiovascular issues that put me at greater risk than the average individual. The coronavirus puts me in a bubble of anxiety for my health and the health of those around me. This constant panic and dread has put my physical and spiritual

health in turmoil, which in turn led to a developing depressive state. I can't focus on my work like I do during the school year. Waking up everyday to do nothing and see no one has taken a large toll on me and directly resulted in my lack of motivation to complete school work. I'm trying very hard to stay on top of my assignments and use homework as a reminder of normalcy, but I fear these grades will not reflect the hard work and dedication I have put into my grades the past three and a half years. -Caroline Henneman

I am a Biology/Pre-Medicine student with a 3.98 GPA here at Kent State University. As a result of campus closure, I have been forced to return to stay with family in Colorado, leaving my primary source of income behind. In order to pay my bills (car payment, insurance, rent, phone, etc.), I will need to return to my old job. This forces me to work during lecture/lab periods (due to the 2 hour time difference). It is nearly **IMPOSSIBLE** to **PASS** organic chemistry lab if just **ONE** lab session is missed. My entrance to medical school and score on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is extremely dependent on how well I do in organic chemistry and organic chemistry lab (specifically for the KSU/NEOMED Early Assurance Program). One virtual lab session missed = the elimination of my eligibility for the NEOMED program. The wifi network at my home is overcrowded with my parents & siblings remotely doing work or school. Coffee shops & public libraries are closed, leaving me with nowhere to do schoolwork. It is incredibly devastating and stress-inducing that all of my collegiate experiences (volunteering, shadowing, involvement, etc.) up until this point could ultimately be for nothing due to extenuating financial circumstances or the inability to access proper wifi. I am not coping well with the transition to online classes and I can already feel it affecting my mental health, outside of the effects from everything that is happening around the world. I am currently bracing myself for my worst academic semester ever. -Drake Wartman

Because of online learning I am no longer learning valuable information for my English class. We were supposed to do a paper on climate change but because climate change is "too broad of a subject" to learn and write about ourselves, my professor has decided to have weekly writing labs about our week to keep us writing and then a final paper. Another concern is how my other professor is having difficulty utilizing the technology which is creating a barrier in learning.

Personally I have never been a student that struggles with school work or my grades, but I choose to take in person classes for a reason. My attention span is just not fit to be staring at a computer screen all day. I understand that the circumstances make this difficult, but I do not want my high GPA to suffer because I am not fit to learn 15 credits worth of material online. I also think that deadlines for this week should be moved to after spring break. I have 2 papers, 3 assignments, and an exam all scheduled for this week and I am struggling to even focus on these long enough to get anything done due to the constant fear and news being spread. While I certainly value my education, I do not see the rest of this semester being a productive one. I foresee myself working myself way harder than I typically would need too while also

trying to keep up with family hardships. I think this will turn into a game of just doing whatever we have to do to get a high grade and not actually obtaining any of the material. -Kaelee Dingey

Most of my professors use very little technology in their classrooms, which is totally their choice. But, with classes now being online, my professors are being forced into learning on the fly how to use this stuff. Today my class started 20+ minutes after our normal start time because our professor was having issues with the technology. It's been incredibly hard to move out of my apartment, travel out of state, and still be able to be online in time for my classes. Additionally, most of my classes, which are Communication classes, have assignments such as presentations and speeches that are now going to be altered into essays. If I wanted to get better at writing, I would have declared a minor in English not in Global Communication. I paid for in class instruction not online classes. As someone with ADHD, it's very difficult to learn from home. I learn best in a classroom setting with structure. Since that is much harder to replicate at home, I am fearful that my grades will drop. It would be one thing if I chose an online class and by result, my grade dropped. But I chose face to face classes for a reason and if my grades suffer because of this transition, I will be very upset. - Megan Milam

As someone who was homeschooled until high school, I am well versed in the challenges that come from online learning. Personally, it was hard for me to be successful in an online environment and that is why I chose to switch from that method of schooling. I cannot imagine how hard it must be for students who have never done schooling completely online. It is a different type of learning that does not work for everyone despite the amount of the accommodations that are made. Adapting to online classes is already stressful without even considering what is going on in our world. It has been hard for me to even focus on my coursework as this pandemic worsens. I think that the grades of students should not suffer in this national emergency. The university should not let grades from this semester negatively impact grade point average. I want to continue learning, but I do not want to stress about my grades dropping because I cannot learn in an online format. -Tiera Moore

All of my professors decided to give exams the first week during the transition which has been confusing and frustrating. I purposefully don't take online classes that require lockdown browser because it makes me uncomfortable to be filmed while taking an exam and impacts my ability to think. Also, it is hard to ensure zero distractions in a home with 4 other people. None of my professors have described how we will be having lectures or if we will be at all. All they have done is post an updated syllabus with homework to complete and nothing about online class time. The lack of knowledge and lack of clarity by my professors in terms of what to do (i would rather they just say do nothing) is causing a lot of anxiety and not great for my mental health that requires structure and security in my classes.

My professor won't post his lectures at different times. He will only live stream at the time of class. I'm in a house with a child with severe abuse and trauma. She doesn't understand when I need quiet or how to not need my attention when I'm watching her. She's off school, and as the oldest daughter- it's my job to watch her while my parents work. I can't just ignore my duty to my family. In addition- I have a severe mental health disorder- and community is everything In terms of my ability to focus. I feel alone and with no support anymore.

At 11:59 tonight I'm going to fail an exam because, my hotspot isn't strong enough to run proctorio and because my local libraries are closed and my family can't afford WiFi because I live in the middle of nowhere. -a KSU student on twitter