

FOR RELEASE ON APRIL 15TH

120+ Student body presidents call on grad schools & employers to accept Pass/Fail grades without condition

April 15th - More than 120 student body presidents and leaders, representing 2,038,000 + students, from public and private institutions across the country (including all the Ivy League universities, UC Berkeley, Stanford etc) released a letter today urging graduate schools and employers to evaluate Spring 2020 applicants with the widespread effects of COVID-19 in the mind.

The letter titled **Admissions & Postgraduate Opportunities In Response to COVID-19**, calls on employers, graduate schools, and governing bodies like the Association of American Universities to:

- Not penalize students who have opted, or were required, to take classes pass-fail
- Not rescind pre-existing offers solely based on Spring 2020 grades
- Lighten or remove GPA cutoffs for eligibility of specific programs
- Lower thresholds for standardized test scores and prioritize holistic applicant review for both undergraduate and graduate admissions

“By standing together as a united collective and calling for these critical policies, we hope graduate schools and future employers will prioritize equity and accessibility in wake of this unprecedented pandemic” William Zhou, Brown University, Student Body President.

“Many students are struggling to transition to online learning, especially students who come from underprivileged backgrounds. We need to ensure that we are extending empathy during this difficult time, and reducing academic stress for students during this period of uncertainty.” Miao, WashU, Student Body President.

“We wanted to especially emphasize that students who are most likely to opt-into taking classes pass fail are often those who are most acutely affected by COVID-19 or hold historically marginalized identities. As a result, preference for letter grades this semester unjustly disadvantages the most vulnerable students” Zhou.

[View Full Letter & Signatory List](#)

For additional inquiry: Rice Presidents Anna Margaret Clyburn & Grace Wickerson (ricesapres@gmail.com), USC President Truman Fritz (trumanfr@usc.edu), NYU President Jakiya Bradley (jeb765@nyu.edu), WashU President Ranen Miao (ranenmiao@gmail.com), Brown President William Zhou (william_zhou@brown.edu)