

Impact of COVID-19 on Grading, Transcript and Commencement Practices: Results of the AACRAO COVID-19 Snapshot Impact Survey #1

Introduction

AACRAO is developing [guidance](#) on a range of topics in support of institutions of higher education need to adjust, review and consider many of their practices in light of the impact of COVID-19 on normal operations. To help us develop this guidance and our members understanding of how other institutions are responding to COVID-19, we will deploy a series of rapidly developed practice impact surveys. This is the first of those surveys and focused primarily on grading and transcript practices but also asked questions about commencement and/or convocation.

The survey was open for only 2.5 business days and we received over 600 responses in that timeframe. 13 countries are represented with the largest percentage representing U.S. institutions (94%). We are grateful to our members for taking time to respond to this survey in the midst of pressing institutional needs. We hope the resulting data will help inform practice.

The data highlighted in this report explores changes made or under consideration in response to COVID-19. Limits of this type of rapid survey and report include the following:

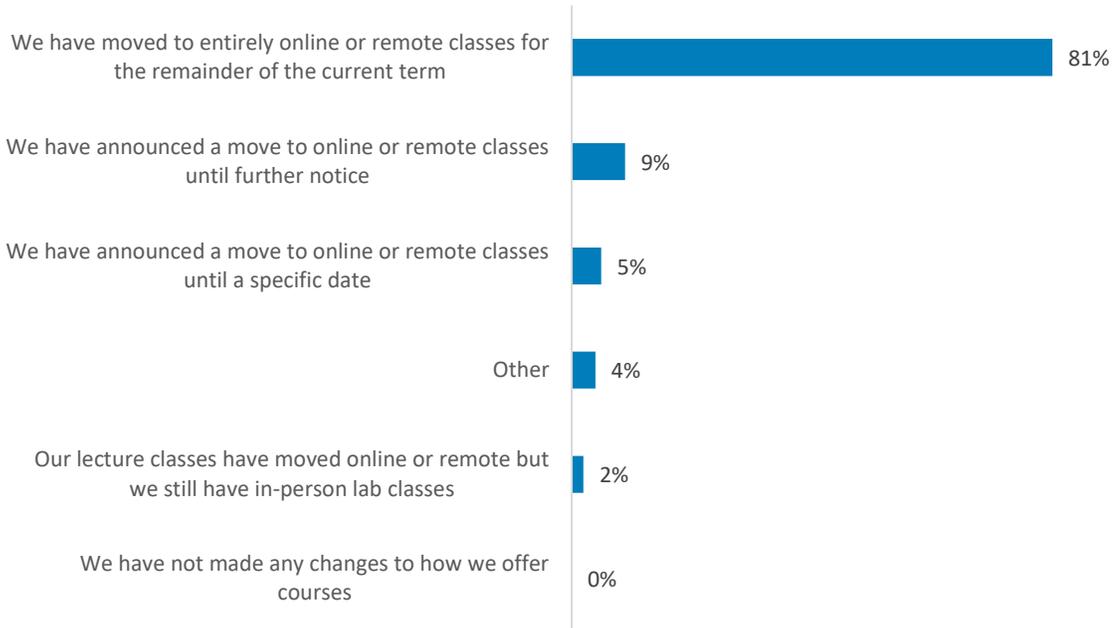
- While we focused primarily on what is changing, we likely missed some opportunities to gain an explicit understanding of what is staying the same.

Key Results

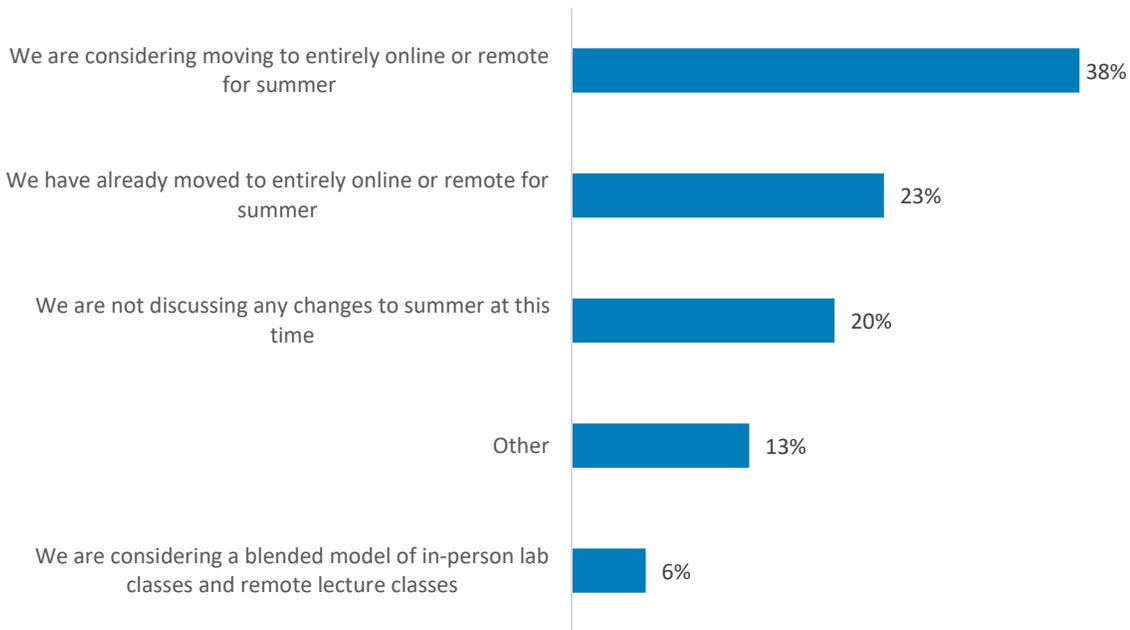
- 81% have moved to entirely online or remote classes for the remainder of the current term
- 23% have moved to entirely online or remote classes for summer; an additional 38% are considering doing so
- 27% are not making any changes to grading or transcript practices in response to COVID-19
- 79% anticipate that degrees will be posted to students' records in the normal timeframe
- 47% have cancelled graduation ceremonies with no alternative; 14% rescheduled for another date; and 12% moved to a virtual option
- 44% are adhering to current policy on academic standing for the term; 6% are suspending academic standing calculations for this term
- Most institutions are either giving or considering giving students the choice to change one or more of their courses to pass/fail or another institutional equivalent

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Reilly, AACRAO Executive Director at reillym@aacrao.org

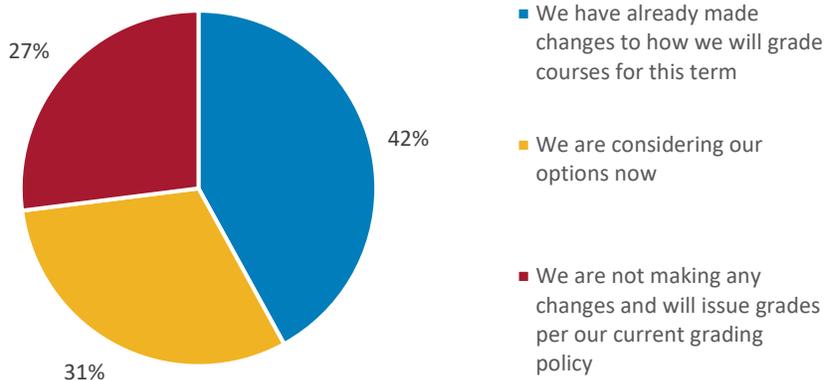
Changes made to course instruction in response to COVID-19 (n=626)



COVID-19 impact on summer term (n=594)

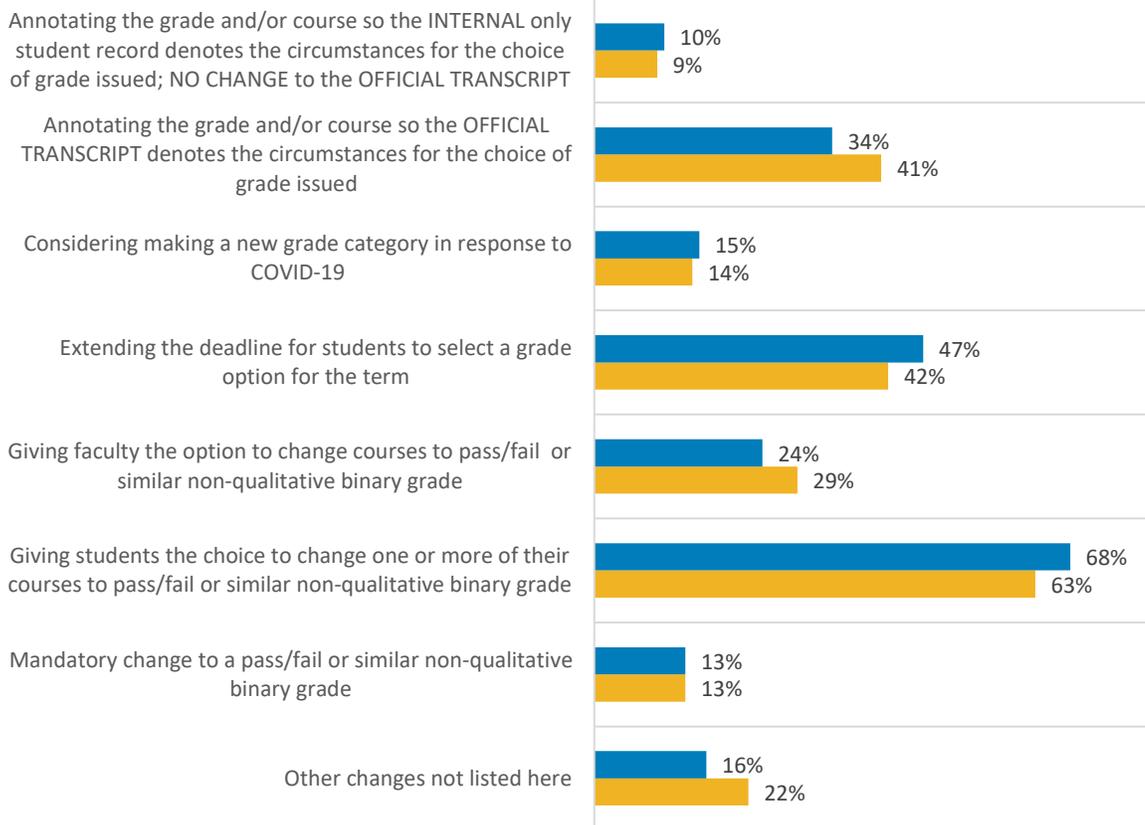


State of changes to grading and transcript practices in response to COVID-19 (n=622)



Grading and transcript practice changes under consideration*

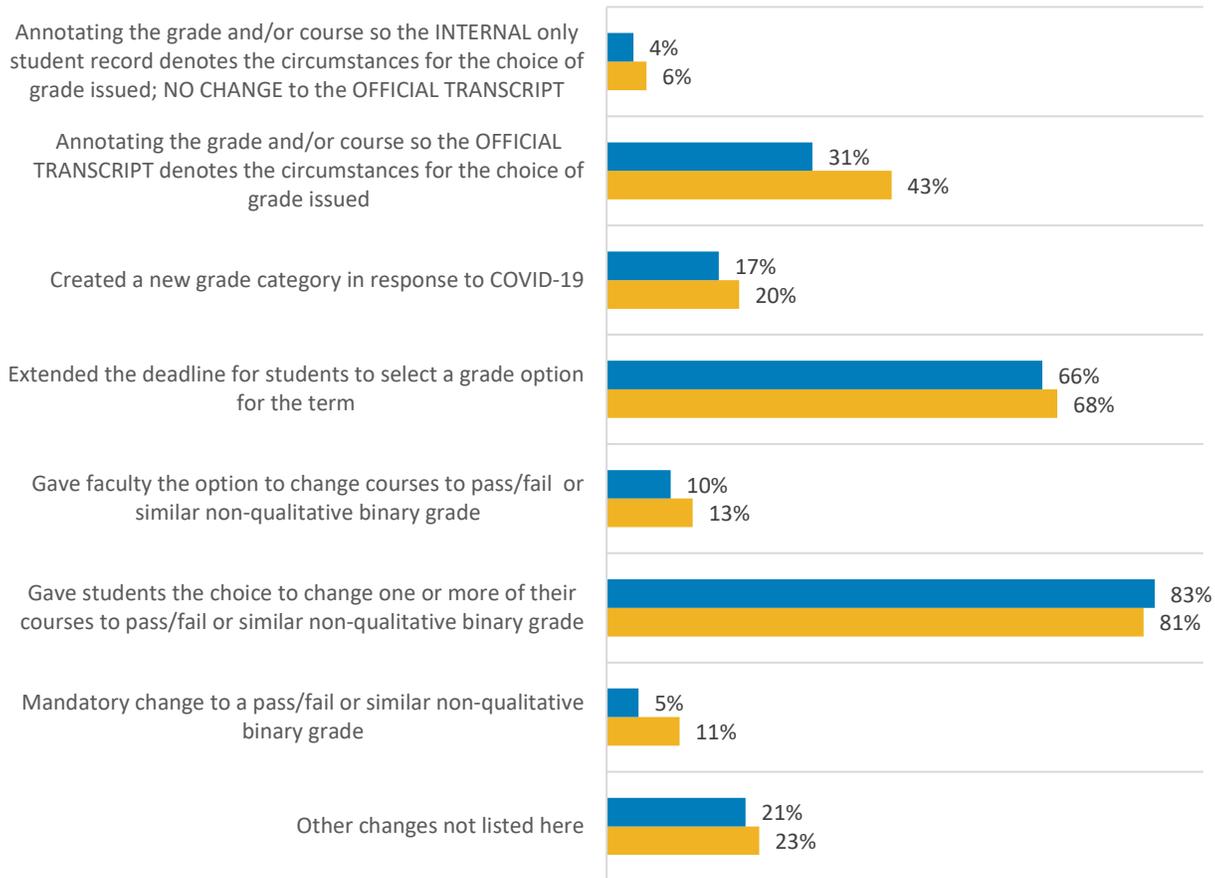
■ Undergraduate (n=184) ■ Graduate and/or Professional (n=127)



*asked only of those who selected "we are considering our options now"

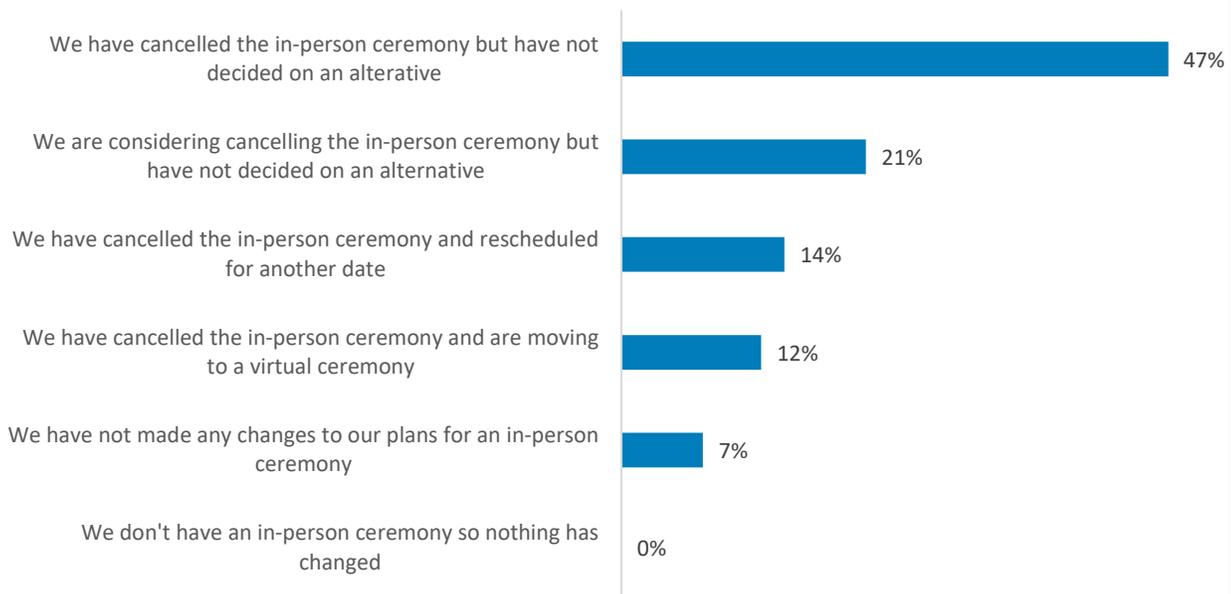
Grading and transcript changes already made*

■ Undergraduate (n=248) ■ Graduate and/or professional (n=202)

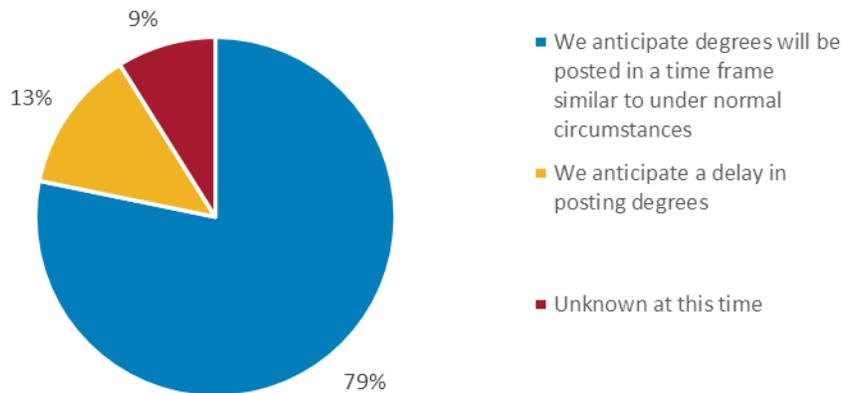


*asked only of those who selected “we have already made changes to how we will grade courses for this term”

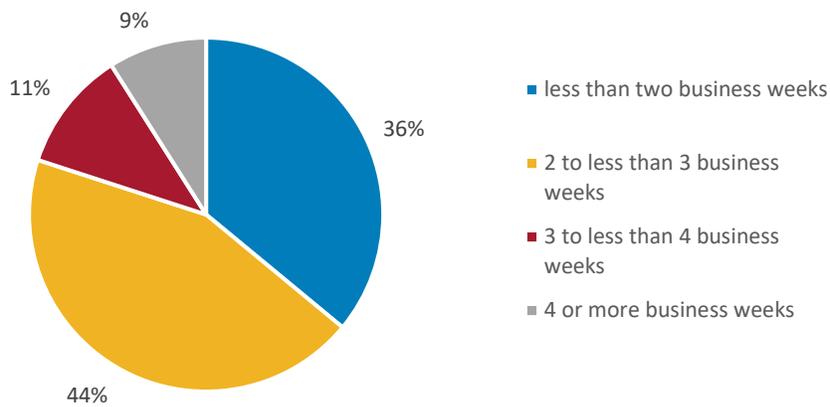
COVID-19 Impact on commencement and/or convocation plans for the current semester/term (n=603)



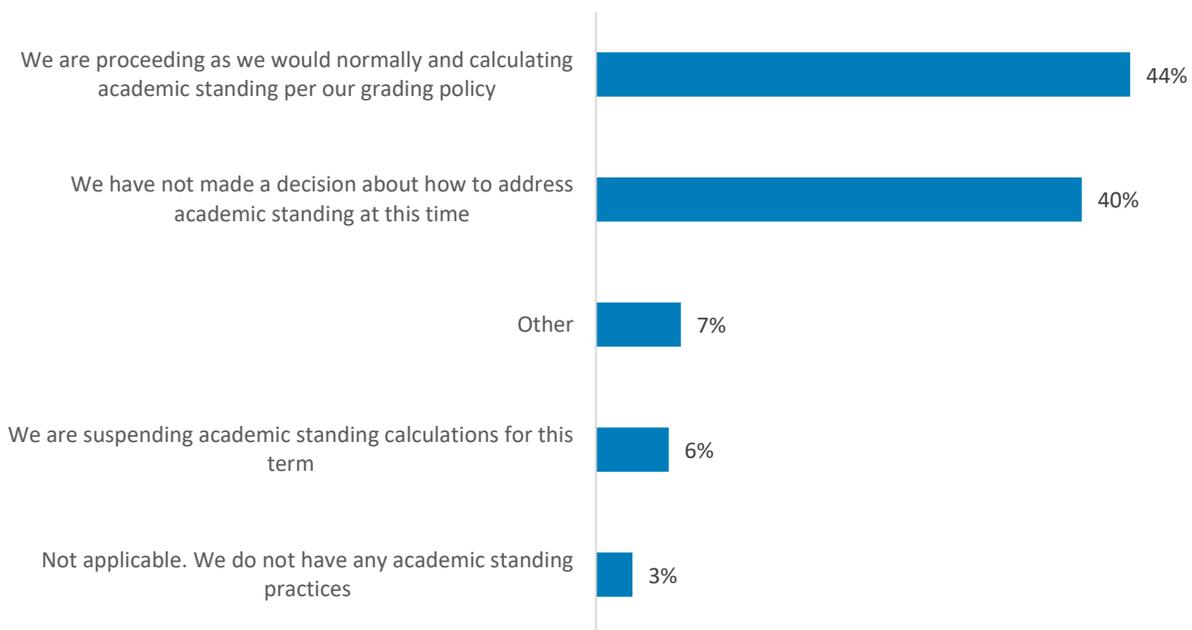
Impact of COVID-19 on posting degrees for current semester/term (n=608)



Length of delay in posting degrees for the current term among those who anticipate a delay (n=75)



COVID-19 Impact on academic standing (n=607)



Non-qualitative grades used before COVID and/or in response to COVID-19

