

## Graduate Pass/Fail Grading

**Action:** To allow graduate students to opt-in to pass/fail grading, on a course-by-course basis, by May 1, 2020, for Spring 2020 semester only. **For the Spring 2020 semester only**, limitations provided in Catalog Policy [B-11-b](#) and [B-11-c](#) will be temporarily suspended, granting graduate students the ability to opt-in to pass/fail grading for any letter-graded course and extending the opt-in date to May 1, 2020. Faculty will be responsible for determining what constitutes a passing grade and communicating this information to students. For the Spring 2020 semester, transcripts will include a notation to indicate that study was interrupted due to COVID-19. This proposed action will apply only to Spring 2020 courses that have not been completed prior to March 26, 2020. This policy only applies to courses that are currently letter-graded courses.

**Policies at Issue:** General Requirements and Academic Procedures (Catalog):

### B-11. Pass-Fail Option

#### B-11-b. Graduate Students

1. With the approval of the major professor concerned (or advisor in the case of an unclassified student) and the dean of the College of Graduate Studies, graduate students may enroll in a limited number of courses under this P/F option. This procedure is separate from taking courses that are regularly graded P/F.
2. Courses that may be taken by graduate students under this regulation are:
  - a. any course not in the student's designated major and
  - b. any course required to remove a deficiency or to provide background for the student's program, unless the major department stipulates that such deficiency courses must be taken on a regular-grade basis and completed with an A or B.
3. Of the minimum number of credits required for a degree, no more than three credits in a master's or specialist program or nine in a doctoral program may be taken under this P/F option.
4. To have P recorded for courses taken under this regulation, a graduate student must earn a C or above. A grade of D will be converted to an F on the student's records.
5. An unclassified student may enroll for courses under this option with the approval of his or her advisor (if assigned) and the dean of the College of Graduate Studies. If, however, at a later date an unclassified student is admitted to a degree program, the above regulations apply and no changes to regular letter grades will be permitted.

**B-11-c. Adds, Drops, and Changes.** Students may add or drop a P/F option course in the same manner as a regular course, and they may change from P/F to regular-grade classification, or vice versa, if they do so no later than the deadlines stated in regulation C and the academic calendar. Students may make these changes by securing the signatures of the advisor or major professor and dean concerned.

**Reason for action:** This action will give graduate students the ability to make the best academic decision for them personally due to individual extenuating circumstances brought on by COVID-19. These could include personal health, family health, technology challenges, or other issues. It will also greatly reduce graduate students' anxiety and grant additional time to adjust to online

learning. Graduate students will receive information regarding the P/F option (via COGS website and E-mail) and will be encouraged to communicate with their major professors in an effort to help them make the right decision. Shifting to pass/fail grading may be the wrong choice for students who are attempting to increase their GPA or meet other requirements. Graduate faculty will receive communications from COGS regarding shifting from regular grading to P/F for graduate courses.