

Law Pass/No Pass Grading

Action: To convert all courses in the College of Law to Pass/No-Pass grading. Our proposal differs from the proposal for undergraduates in that there will be no option to retain letter grades for any courses, and thus the policy would apply equally to all courses. This policy would apply for Spring 2020 semester only, unless we continue remote-only teaching for the Summer 2020 semester, in which case it should continue for the Summer 2020 semester as well.

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.

Reasons for Action: The College of Law hosts a student body that is more diverse in many ways from the undergraduate study body. Many of our students are non-traditional students, with partners and families, who will experience remote learning in a much different way than our other students with different, and in some ways potentially simpler, living situations. Their socio-economic situations also vary substantially. The faculty determined that using an elective system, like that being implemented for the undergraduates, could further benefit those who are already in an advantageous position with respect to their education while further harming those in a disadvantaged position. Implementing a mandatory Pass/No Pass system will mitigate those differential effects of the transition to remote learning. It will also greatly reduce students' anxiety and grant students additional time to adjust to online learning. We request the No Pass option (already in use at the College of Law for some classes) because of the much greater impact of an F grade for professional students. This proposal is in line with actions taken at other law schools across the country, many of which have selected a Credit/No Credit approach.

Current Policies Affected: Colleges and Related Units—College of Law (Catalog):

Grading System

Grades for courses taken in the College of Law shall be awarded on the basis of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, and F; provided, however, that by resolution the law faculty may designate any course, or courses, to be graded on a pass-fail or pass-no pass basis. Any approved course work taken at any other law school will be recorded on the transcript as a "P," if the student earned a "C" or better in that course. No credit will be awarded for work done at another law school if the student earned less than a grade of "C." Up to 6 credit hours of UI graduate level courses may be taken with special permission of the associate dean. Credits will be recorded as "P" for course work in which the student earns a "B" or better. Grades of "P" are not included in calculating a student's grade-point average or class ranking in the College of Law. Exceptions to the above may be made for UI graduate level courses used in the approved UI law/graduate concurrent degree programs.

Grade-point averages of students in the College of Law shall be computed by assigning the following numerical point values per semester hours: A = 4.00; A- = 3.67; B+ = 3.33; B = 3.00; B- = 2.67; C+ = 2.33; C = 2.00; C- = 1.67; D+ = 1.33; D = 1.00; D- = 0.67; F (or "fail" under the pass-fail basis) = 0.00. The cumulative grade-point average is the quotient of total points assigned, divided by total hours undertaken. Courses in which marks of I, W, P (pass) or NP (no pass) have been given shall be disregarded in the computation. All course grades shall be included on the transcript and (except for marks of I, W, P or NP) in the calculation of the grade-point average, even if courses have been repeated. (For further information about repeating courses, see below.)

This grading system applies in determining:

1. eligibility for continuing study in the College of Law;
2. compliance with requirements for the Juris Doctor degree; and
3. class ranking within the College of Law.

Grades in most courses offered by the College of Law are awarded on the basis of performance in a single written examination conducted at the end of the semester. In courses where it is so announced, grades on written projects or classroom participation may be included.

Unless arranged in advance by the professor, students receiving an "incomplete" grade for a course must remove that grade within six weeks after the first day of classes of the following fall or spring semester. Incompletes not made up before that date automatically revert to the grade indicated by the professor as the "permanent" grade, usually an "F." The grade ultimately given will be computed in the GPA for the semester in which the class was begun.

Repeating Courses for Credit

A student who has completed a law school course in which s/he has received a grade of C-, D+, D, or D- may repeat that law school course once (the "repeated course"), subject to the following conditions:

1. The credit hours earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the law school transcript, but shall not be applied toward the total number of required credit hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College of Law.
2. The grade earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the student's law school transcript, but shall not be calculated as part of the student's law school grade point average.

Repeating Failed Courses

1. A student who has completed a law school course in which s/he has received a grade of F (the "failed course") shall receive no credit hours for application toward the total number of required credit hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College of Law, but the grade shall be calculated as part of the student's law school grade point average.
2. If the failed course is a course required for graduation the student must repeat the course and receive a grade above an F, in order to satisfy the graduation requirements. If the failed course is not required for graduation, the student may repeat the course one time only. If a student repeats a failed course and passes the course, the credit hours and grade received in the repeated course shall be treated as follows:
 - a. The credit hours earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the law school transcript and shall be applied toward the total number of required credit hours for award of the Juris Doctor degree by the College of Law.
 - b. The grade earned by the student upon completion of the repeated course shall appear on the student's law school transcript, but shall not be calculated as part of the student's law school grade point average.