

Undergraduate Pass/Fail Grading

Action: To allow undergraduate 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-a](#) and [B-11-c](#) will be temporarily suspended, granting 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-a. Undergraduate Students.** After consultation with their advisors, undergraduates who have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.00 or higher are permitted to enroll in one course a semester under this P/F option. (The grade-point requirement is not applicable to students who are taking university-level courses for the first time.) This procedure is separate from taking courses that are regularly graded P/F. Within the limitations specified above, an undergraduate may enroll under the pass-fail option in any course EXCEPT:
 - courses listed by number and title in the student's major curriculum as printed in the individual department section;
 - courses taken to meet the distributional requirements of the college or curriculum, unless allowed for P/F enrollment by the college in which the student is majoring;
 - courses used to satisfy the general education requirements;
 - courses in the major subject field; and
 - courses in closely related fields that are excluded from this option by the student's department. (See B-11-d for "Reporting of Grades.")
 - Students in officer education programs (OEP) may enroll under this regulation in courses required because of their affiliation with the OEP ONLY with the permission of the administrator of the OEP department concerned.
 - A maximum of 12 credits earned in courses under this regulation may be counted toward a baccalaureate degree.
 - **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 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 students' anxiety and grant students additional time to adjust to online learning. Students will receive information (via web) and advising 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.