

Pass- No Pass Frequently Asked Questions

1) Are there any consequences for Pass/No Pass besides not counting towards your GPA?

Students should check to make sure that they are receiving grades in courses that are required for medical or dental school, law school, graduate school, veteran's benefits, athletic or visa status, etc. Please consult your pre-health, pre-law, athletic, Yellow Ribbon, specialized scholarships, or ISO advisor about such requirements.

2) Should I take any action if I want to keep my courses as graded?

No, but it is recommended you speak with your professional/faculty advisor.

3) Some GW schools require letter grades in certain courses to request an internal transfer. Will this policy impact my ability to transfer?

*You must have the necessary letter grades to apply to transfer from SEAS to another GW undergraduate school. Those prerequisite courses which require a minimum letter grade are listed by school. A Pass ("P") grade will **not** count to meet the prerequisite grade requirement for internal transfer. You should take those prerequisite courses for a letter grade.*

Students who are on their last Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeal will have to pass 75% of their course work and receive a letter grade in at least one course that results in a semester GPA of 2.0

4) Will taking advantage of this policy have any implications on Financial Aid or Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?

*A No Pass could impact SAP if you pass less than 75% of your coursework for the semester. Class grades of "No Pass" **do** count against a student's progression rate. Classes graded as "Pass" will count like courses graded as a letter grade.*

5) What constitutes a "passing grade" under this policy?

In SEAS undergraduate courses, a letter grade of D- or better is considered a passing grade. If you are taking a graduate-level course or an undergraduate course in another school (e.g., CCAS, BADM, IAFF, etc.), you should confirm what constitutes a passing grade.

6) I am an international student in SEAS, can I use the P/NP option during the spring 2020 term?

Yes, you can use this during the Spring 2020 semester as long as the Pass (P) option for the course can apply to your degree, and not affect your full-course of study enrollment or delay your graduation timeline. However, receiving a No Pass (NP) could negatively affect your visa status if it affects your current credit number and time to graduation. Please reach out to Melissa Yuan in ISO if you have any questions (melissayuan@email.gwu.edu).

7) How does opting for Pass/No Pass impact student athletes and their requirements?

We encourage student athletes to consult with their athletic advisor to discuss any potential impact on NCAA eligibility.

8) How will taking a course P/NP impact my GPA?

For ALL courses in P mode: P grades will show as Passed and Earned hours, but the GPA hours, Quality Points and GPA would be 0. For students with all classes with any NP grades, the GPA would still be 0 and any NP classes would not be reflected in Earned or Passed hours.

For a mix of P/NP and graded courses, the GPA would reflect the graded courses and P/NP would apply to attempted and passed/earned hours as appropriate.

9) If schools have different policies, what happens when a student's double major or minor is in another school?

The P/NP policy updates govern courses in which a student is currently registered. Ex. If a SEAS student is taking two courses in ESIA, Elliott's policies will govern those two courses.

10) Can I still utilize First Year Forgiveness for Pass/No Pass; for example will a "P" replace a letter grade under the Forgiveness policy?

Taking a course P/NP will not impact a student's ability to use the course for first-year forgiveness for the Spring 2020 semester only.

- *Students may use First Year Forgiveness for courses in which they receive a NP.*
- *Students may repeat a course for which they receive a P.*
- *A student who is repeating a course this semester using First Year Forgiveness may choose P/NP instead of a letter grade.*

11) Does this policy apply to incompletes from previous semesters?

If a student who has already been graded with an (I) incomplete in a course taken for a letter grade in a prior term (Spring 2019, Summer 2019 or Fall 2019), can be graded with a Pass- No Pass option if they are working to complete this courses for the Spring 2020 term.

12) How does this impact students studying abroad?

*Students doing a **GW study abroad program** with GW courses that receive grades are eligible to change the grade mode.*

*For students who are doing a **non-GW study abroad program**, to be consistent with GW's on-campus classes, this Spring 2020 semester only, we will transfer back courses for which you have received a minimum of a US D- or above.*

Though grades from study abroad are not reflected on your GW transcript, there is still a record of them. Should you ever need your grades from study abroad for any reason, such as graduate school applications or certain job applications, etc., they are available to you upon request via Official Grade Letters from the Office for Study Abroad.

For students whose provider is offering a Pass/Fail option, transferred courses would only ever appear on a Grade Letter as "Pass." For students whose provider is still grading courses with letter grades, transferred courses would appear on a Grade Letter as the actual grade you received. It is important to note that we are unable to move your coursework from a Letter Grade to Pass/Fail if this is not something offered by your program provider or partner school.

13) Is it okay for students to use the P/NP option for courses specifically required for their major? Will doing so have any negative impact on their progress?

Students may use the P/NP option for courses specifically required for their SEAS major and/or minor this semester only. This will not negatively impact their progress for pursuing their degree requirements, however, with regard to their aspirations to attend medical or dental school, law school, graduate school, veteran's benefits, athletic or visa status, etc. --- students should consult with their pre-health, pre-law, athletic, Yellow Ribbon, specialized scholarships, or ISO advisor about possible ramifications.

14) Can I take courses away from GW as P/NP for Spring 2020?

Yes, the Registrar's Office will accept "P" grades from other schools for Spring 2020.

15) How might taking courses this semester P/NP affect my graduate school applications?

In most cases, receiving a "P" this spring in a course that may in future directly relate to your chosen field of study in graduate school will not greatly impact you. STEM graduate schools occasionally ask applicants to report subject-specific GPAs and receiving high letter grades in related courses could possibly provide a slight admissions advantage. If you know your likely field of future graduate study, it is recommended you consider your grade mode choice carefully and check in with your instructor(s) in each case before making your decision.

16) Who will inform instructors of the grade form students are choosing? Will it appear automatically in the grade options when grades are submitted?

When instructors are processing final grades, they can see this in the GWeb final grade submission screen under the Grade Mode column. For undergraduate students, it will be P for Pass/No Pass and C for Letter Grade. Faculty will need to carefully check the Grade Mode column (P = Pass/No Pass and C = Letter Grade) before selecting the correct grade from the drop-down menu when entering final grades to prevent grading errors.

17) How does the P/NP impact consideration for Dean's List?

Students who wish to be considered for Dean's List in Spring 2020 must earn 9 letter-graded (A, B, C, D, F only) credits or more and attain a minimum grade point average of 3.75 in coursework, pass all non-graded credit courses, and do not have any Unauthorized Withdrawals (Z) or Incompletes (I), are placed on the Dean's List for that semester. Pass/no pass grades are not considered letter-grades.

18) How does the P/NP impact consideration for special honors for graduation (e.g. latin or departmental)?

If a student's GPA qualifies them for honors, but they are short on the GPA hours to qualify we will account for any P courses taken in Spring 2020 (e.g. if they took 3 credits of P this semester and have 57 GPA hours, they would still qualify).

19) I am a senior intending to graduate soon. If I take any of my final courses P/NP, will I still complete the degree requirement and graduate?

As long as you receive a "P" in these courses, they will fulfill your degree requirements.

20) Can a professor make a decision to utilize P/NP for a student, even if that student does not wish to utilize P/NP?

No.

21) What happens if I request an incomplete for this semester and want to use the Pass-No Pass?

Once the grade is posted for the class the pass-no pass grading will be applied.

22) Can I switch back to a letter grade after requesting the change to pass-no pass?

If a student has already switched from a letter grade to a Pass/No Pass and would like to switch back his process should be completed by using a Registration Transaction Form (RTF) by April 27th, 2020. Under the Grade Mode column, write "C" to switch back to a letter grade.

23) What does it mean that academic standing will be held in abeyance for Spring 2020?

Academic standing will be held in abeyance for Spring 2020. Any student who is flagged for probation, suspension, etc. will be returned to their standing as of Fall 2019. SEAS will place such students in the academic watch program so they get the resources they need to improve their academic performance.

- *Students on academic probation are typically capped at 13 credits when registering for their upcoming semester. Given that we are holding academic standing in abeyance this semester, students on academic probation can petition to register for up to 18 credits for the Fall 2020 semester. **Please submit your petition to increase your credit cap to 18 credits to your Professional Advisor after speaking with your Faculty Advisor and getting his/her signature on your petition.***

24) Will the COVID-19 semester be noted on my transcript?

Yes, your transcripts will have a notation explaining the academic disruption due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 for the spring 2020 term.