



March 12, 2021

Dear Students,

We are pleased to inform you that the Academic Senate has approved an extension of expanded flexibility in the use of Passed/Not Passed grading. The temporary grading flexibility which was implemented in Winter Quarter 2021 is now in effect for both Spring Quarter 2021 and Summer Sessions 2021. The policy changes that were in effect for Winter, and which are now extended through Spring and Summer as well, are summarized below:

## Policy for P/NP Grading in Spring Quarter 2021 and Summer Sessions 2021

1. In Spring Quarter 2021, the deadline to switch between letter grade and P/NP grading has been extended to the last day of instruction, June 4, 2021, instead of the usual end of the seventh week. The deadline for grading option changes for Summer Sessions 2021 will also be extended to the final day of instruction, in each summer session.
2. In Winter Quarter 2021, departments were permitted to allow courses for which a student earned a P grade to count toward their pre-major, major, and minor requirements. This grading flexibility will continue in spring and summer. Departmental decisions to allow expanded use of P/NP grading are implemented as follows:

If a department chose to "opt in" to this policy for Winter Quarter 2021, all of that department's courses, even those usually restricted to letter grading, will continue to be offered with the P/NP grading option for spring and summer 2021.

If a department chose to "opt in" to this policy for Winter Quarter 2021, courses from another department that are used to meet major requirements may be taken P/NP, if the course allows optional grading.

Students should check the appropriate departmental websites, or contact their academic advisor, for more information about which departments have opted in.

3. Students on Academic Probation may take courses that offer optional grading for P/NP grades in both Spring Quarter 2021 and Summer Sessions 2021. However, we suggest that students on probation considering this option consult with their college advising office to discuss their particular academic situation.
4. Courses in which students earn a grade of P will not be included in the University Letter Grade Requirement.

## FAQ: Should I take courses P/NP?

For All Students: Please be aware that grades of C-, D+, D, and D- are all considered passing letter grades (although they potentially allow a student to repeat a course to replace the grade, within limits outlined in the General Catalog). However, letter grades of C-, D+, D and D- are automatically converted to NP under P/NP grading. Note that in some departments, letter grades in this range do not satisfy certain prerequisites, or count towards the major. For clarification, consult the major requirement sheet or your departmental advisor.

For Pre-Health Students: Health Professions Advising strongly discourages pre-health students from changing their grading option to P/NP in science courses, especially professional school prerequisite courses. The only exception is when a student knows for certain that they will earn a C- or below in the course, since this letter grade would cause the student to earn a grade of NP. If students are unsure of the best course of action, they should speak to a pre-health advisor during drop-in advising. Drop-in times and other important information can be found on the Health Professions Advising website, <https://healthsciences.duels.ucsb.edu/home>.

For Pre-Law Students: For students considering going to law school, please be aware that the LSAC (Law School Admissions Council) automatically converts NP grades to F. P grades are not included in their calculation. For additional information on how grades are recalculated in the law school admission process and are considered by law schools, please visit the pre-law advising page to connect with a pre-law advisors: <https://duels.ucsb.edu/professional/law>

For Students Changing/Adding Majors: Students thinking of changing majors, or adding a second major, should confirm that their intended major department has "opted in" to the temporary P/NP grading policy before taking classes required for their major with P/NP grading. Students who are Undeclared should similarly check on the requirements for the major(s) they are considering.

For Students Considering Graduate School: Students who are considering graduate school should think carefully about taking major courses for P/NP grades, and are advised to consult their department with questions about how P/NP may be treated in graduate admissions in their discipline.

For GI Bill Veterans: Students receiving GI Bill Veterans benefits should check with their VA certifying official about policies. In some situations, NP grades may require students to repay money.

If you are unsure, ask your departmental advisor, or contact a College advisor via:

College of Letters & Science Advising  
[academic\\_advising@ltsc.ucsb.edu](mailto:academic_advising@ltsc.ucsb.edu)  
<https://www.duels.ucsb.edu/advising>

College of Engineering Advising  
[coe-info@engineering.ucsb.edu](mailto:coe-info@engineering.ucsb.edu)  
<https://engineering.ucsb.edu/undergraduate/academic-advising>

College of Creative Studies Advising  
[info@ccs.ucsb.edu](mailto:info@ccs.ucsb.edu)  
<https://ccs.ucsb.edu/>