

Pass / No Pass Grading Guidelines

*Adopted from University of Oklahoma Spring 2020 grading policies

OSRHE Guidance

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have provided guidance for course grading options for Spring 2020 given the impact of COVID-19 on courses already in session. Chancellor Johnson messaged

1. Encourage faculty to assign letter grades as planned for the Spring 2020 courses in progress.
2. Provide students the option to elect to change a letter grade for a Spring 2020 course to S/U or P/NP grading options for a period of time following the posting of Spring 2020 grades. Institutions may determine the window of time for students to make this election.
3. Discourage "W" or "WF" grade assignments as much as possible. A policy exception will be made for the Spring 2020 semester deadlines for the assignment of the automatic W in response to this unique circumstance.
4. By policy, P/F grading is only allowed as an option for students in specified courses where the student understood this as the grading options prior to enrollment.

Please note the following:

- Grades of "S"- "U"/ "P"- "NP", "W", and "AW" are grade neutral, but count in hours attempted for retention and earned hours for graduation.
- U.S. Department of Education Financial Aid guidance indicates that institutions should review Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policies related to S/U or P/NP grades and apply consistently. U.S. Department of Education Financial Aid guidance also indicates that these grades will not impact a student's Title IV financial aid as long as the classes continue to count towards the student's degree completion requirements. You may refer to <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19> for further guidance.
- A letter grade of "F" is calculated into the GPA.
- The grade "I" is at the instructor's discretion but cannot substitute for the "F" grade. The time limit to satisfy the incomplete requirements from the assigned "I" grade is at the discretion of the institution.
- Institutions will need to provide clear information and instructions to students and also specify if an assigned grade of "F" will be considered eligible for change to a "U" or "NP" once assigned.

OSU-OKC Policy

For the Spring 2020 semester, we are enacting an important change to our Grading Policy. Effective immediately, all students (including professional programs) will be permitted (but not required) to convert any courses to pass/no-pass grading (exception: "F" grades will be automatically converted to "NP"). All courses for which you receive passing ("P") grades will count toward degree requirements, which overrides some departmental or college policies.

At the end of the semester, all faculty will submit letter grades to the Registrar's office as typically done. Students will have 7 days after the date on which final grades are posted to elect pass/no-pass grading.

In recognition that each course's learning experience will be different, there is no limit on the number of courses students can convert to pass/no-pass grading. Students can make the decision on a course-by-course basis.

All grades of "D" or better in a course would be eligible to convert to a "P" (Pass). We are working through the logistical details of this process right now, and further guidance about how to elect the pass/no-pass option will be communicated to faculty and students in the coming weeks. It will be important that students consider the possible implications of electing the pass/no-pass option on e.g. admission to baccalaureate programs, admission to graduate programs, external competitions, etc. Our program/discipline leadership and academic advisors are ready to assist students in exploring their best options.

FAQ

Do I have to accept a P/NP in my course?

- No. The default grade this semester will be a letter grade. You have the choice to change the letter grade to a P/NP grade after grades are posted.

How will a P/NP impact my GPA?

- "P" and "NP" grades do not impact GPA. They carry no grade point value and are not included in GPA calculations. For more information on grading, please see the Catalog.
- For some students, it will be advantageous to keep your letter grade. Please discuss with your advisor if you have any questions about GPA neutral grades and how they may impact your academic career.

Will a P grade count towards graduation requirements?

- Yes. For Spring 2020, a "P" grade will meet all program and college requirements for graduation. In effect, a "P" will meet any "C" or better for progress to graduation.
- The college level policies concerning P/NP grades being accepted for major requirements will be suspended for a "P" grade earned in Spring 2020.

Will a P grade count towards course admission or allow progression to subsequent courses?

- Yes. A "P" grade will count as completion of the prerequisite course. For Spring 2020, a "P" will be accepted as meeting any "C" or better requirement for enrollment. Faculty and advisors are to treat a "P" grade in Spring 2020 as equivalent to a "C" in deciding progress to the next course or admissions to restricted courses. This also includes zero-level courses with a "DEV-P" grade.

How will I choose to have my letter grade changed to a P/NP grade?

- Students will have seven days after the last grades are posted. More communication about opting in the P/NP letter grades and dates will be communicated with students.
- We understand that this is a unique time and there may be cases where a student will not be able to elect a P/NP grade within the prescribed timeframe.
- For students that for some reason cannot elect by the deadline, students will need to submit a Grade Appeal to the Office of Academic Affairs. Forms can be found at https://www.osuokc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/academics/Grade_Appeal_Form.pdf

How will a P/NP grade impact admission to a special admissions program?

- A grade of "P" in Spring 2020 courses that are prerequisites for special admissions programs will be treated as meeting any "C" or better requirement.
- Students intending on continuing their education should consider the implications of electing the pass/no-pass option. In these instances, it would likely be advantageous to keep your letter grade.

Will a P/NP impact my scholarship?

- A "P" grade will not likely impact your scholarship. It is a GPA neutral grade and will not lower your GPA.
- A "NP" grade may impact your scholarship for those that require completion of a certain number of credit hours a semester. A "NP" grade will not count as a completion grade ("D" or better).
- Please discuss with your financial aid counselor if you have any questions about how a P/NP grade may impact your scholarships.

Will a P/NP grade impact my Financial Aid?

- Generally speaking, a P/NP grade will not impact Financial Aid. However, if you choose this option for all courses enrolled for the term, you may experience some impact. Students should work closely with the Financial Aid & Scholarship Office concerning their individual situation.

If I am repeating a course previously taken, having earned a grade of "D" or "F", can a P/NP still forgive the "D" or "F"?

- Courses that are being repeated to forgive a "D" or "F" and P/NP is elected; the first attempted course may still be forgiven; however, the second attempt will only be counted in hours attempted and earned and will not affect GPA calculations

How will the P/NP grade impact students in zero-level courses?

- Zero-level courses have a DEV- prefix on grades to denote that they are developmental courses.
- Students earning a "DEV-D" or better can opt to have their grade recorded as a "DEV-P".
- Students earning an "DEV-F" will have their grade automatically converted to a "DEV-NP".
- A "DEV-P" will allow a student to progress as noted above.

Will P/NP impact VA benefits?

- P/NP may not be an option pending final approval from the VA.
- We will update this FAQ when we receive more details.