

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Fall 2020 and Spring 2021)

What is pass/no pass?

In CCAS *undergraduate* courses, a letter grade of D- or better is considered a passing grade.

If you are taking a graduate-level course in CCAS or an undergraduate course in another school, you should confirm with that department or school what constitutes a passing grade in that graduate course. Grades for graduate level courses and undergraduate courses in some GW schools do not follow the same pass/no pass policy.

Which courses may be taken pass/no pass?

Any course may be taken pass/no pass, including general education courses (GPAC), WID courses, major/minor courses. A pass will suffice for courses that are prerequisites for another course. A pass will count to satisfy a minimum grade when a course has a designated minimum grade to move on to a higher-level course, to avoid repeating the class (e.g., UW 1020), or to satisfy a major requirement.

Students are responsible for following all requirements that may apply to their individual situations and for ensuring that they are receiving grades in courses that are required for medical or dental school, law school, graduate school, athletic, veterans, employment, or visa status, etc.

While students should understand that the COVID pandemic is a unique situation at this time, it is impossible to predict how future employers or admissions committees may weigh a decision to take courses P/NP at this time. Students are strongly advised to consult with their CCAS academic advisor, faculty advisor, or department program director.

We especially encourage students to carefully consider and consult with CCAS academic advisors and faculty advisors when considering whether to choose pass/no pass for major and minor courses. The knowledge acquired in major and minor courses is cumulative, with higher expectations as students move up through the curriculum. Later success in majors is predicated on knowledge gained in earlier courses. Students should thoughtfully consider if they will be well served by taking these courses pass/no pass.

How can I request a pass/no pass for one fall 2020 course?

Students should fill out the following form ([P/NP FORM](#)) by November 6th at 5 pm EST. The Registrar's Office has kindly provided this [Student User Guide](#) to help facilitate completion of the form.

Can students petition for more than one P/NP class?

In limited circumstances, students can [petition](#) (Select “Other” under Request Type) for more than one P/NP class before the November 6th deadline. Students should carefully consider if other options such as incompletes, withdrawals, or academic forgiveness are alternatives. Students should consult CCAS academic advisors and faculty advisors to determine the best course of action.

To request an additional course to be converted to pass/no pass, students should contact their [CCAS POD associate/assistant director](#) who will forward their request to the CCAS Undergraduate Dean. Students can find the form [here](#). Please choose “other.”

The Undergraduate Dean will consult as relevant with CCAS advisor, faculty, or program director/chair. Students should submit an explanatory statement and are encouraged to submit any relevant documentation.

Students who encounter extraordinary circumstances after November 6th can contact the Undergraduate Dean’s Office through their CCAS advisor.

Will selecting pass/no pass impact my financial aid?

For students who entered the fall semester already on a [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) warning, taking multiple pass/no pass courses can impact financial aid as they may not make sufficient progress.

Students who are currently on such warning should receive advice from their CCAS academic advisor and/or their academic success coach before deciding to take a course for pass/no pass. It is very important that students seek out support from the [Academic Success program](#) or the [Office for Student Success](#) so that they can continue to improve their GPA.

Some scholarships may require that students maintain a higher GPA. Students are encouraged to contact their CCAS advisor for guidance.

What is the federal policy that GW follows with regard to Satisfactory Academic Progress?

The federal [SAP policy](#) requires a student to pass 75% of the credits enrolled in each semester. In addition the student has to obtain a 2.0 semester and cumulative GPA (however the cumulative GPA requirement only goes into effect after the student’s sophomore year). Since a P/NP will not generate a GPA component, if a student currently is below a 2.0 going into the fall and then takes some or all courses P/NP, they may not be able to get their GPA up, and

therefore that could have an impact on their financial aid if they entered the fall semester already on a SAP warning.

For example, if a student takes more than one course P/NP and this does not allow them to get back above a 2.0, if the student was on a SAP warning going into the fall semester, they will then move to a SAP denial for spring and lose spring aid eligibility. If they were not on a warning going into the fall semester, they would then move to a warning after the fall semester.

I would like to transfer to another school within GW. Will a pass/no pass grade impact my transfer application?

In most cases, P/NP will **not** suffice for prerequisite courses for internal transfers. The prerequisite courses which require a minimum letter grade are listed by school [here](#). In SEAS and GWSB “passes” will **not** count for prerequisite courses for students who want to do internal transfers. SEAS and GWSB will view special cases by petition, but we recommend taking any prerequisites for these schools as graded for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Milken, ESIA, and CCAS have no prerequisites so the policy does not apply. Students should speak with their CCAS academic advisor about the consequences of taking internal transfer courses P/NP.

Are there any consequences for Pass/No Pass besides not counting towards my 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.

Students should thoughtfully consider if taking a major or minor course pass/no pass adequately prepares them for more advanced study.

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

No.

Is GW holding academic standing in abeyance during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters?

No. Academic standing will be determined at the end of the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semester. Undergraduate students are considered to be in good academic standing if at the end of any semester their grade-point average (GPA) for that semester and their cumulative GPA are 2.0 or above. The parameters for Academic Probation and Suspension can be found in the Bulletin [here](#).

I am an international student, can I use the P/NP option during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semester?

Yes, you can use this during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters 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).

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.

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.

Please review the impact of P/NP on students who are on academic probation.

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 (e.g., If a CCAS student is taking two courses in ESIA, Elliott's policies will govern those two courses.) The Elliott School, School of Business, School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Milken School of Public Health have the same pass/no pass policies as CCAS with a few policy exceptions (i.e., transfer credit).

Can I still utilize the Undergraduate Forgiveness Policy for Pass/No Pass?

A student who is repeating a course using academic forgiveness this semester may choose P/NP instead of a letter grade. Students may use the [undergraduate](#)

[forgiveness policy](#) for courses in which they receive a “No Pass” (NP). Students may repeat a course for which they receive a “Pass” (P).

Does the new Pass/No Pass policy apply to Incompletes from previous semesters?

No. This policy only applies to courses registered for during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Previous semesters, including summer 2020, do not apply.

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 CCAS major and/or minor for fall 2020 and spring 2021. This will not negatively impact their progress for pursuing their degree requirements.

However, students are strongly advised to consider if taking a pass/no pass in a major or minor course will adequately prepare them for more advanced coursework.

Additionally, with regard to 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.

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

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), faculty adviser, or CCAS academic advisor before making your decision.

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.

How does the P/NP impact consideration for Dean’s List?

Undergraduate students who, in any one semester, earn 12 credits or more,, attain a 3.75 in a minimum of 9 credits of letter graded coursework, pass all non-graded credit courses and all pass/no pass courses taken will be on the Dean's list.

How does the P/NP impact consideration for special honors for graduation (i.e., Latin or departmental)?

Students will receive Latin Honors with 60 credits minus the number of pass/no pass credits in these three semesters (spring 2020, fall 2020, spring 2021) under the current policy as well as any other courses that usually receive pass/no pass (i.e., internships).

I am a senior intending to graduate soon. If I take two courses pass/no pass this year, 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.

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.

I'm a GW combined degree student (or I'm just enrolled in a graduate-level course this semester). What are my options?

Undergraduate students who are taking graduate courses as part of their undergraduate degree (i.e. an advanced course that is part of a major) may elect to take that course pass/no pass.

Undergraduates in combined undergraduate and graduate programs must follow the policies of their graduate program to determine whether a graduate course may be taken for credit/no credit (the graduate equivalent of pass/no pass). Some graduate programs have determined that their field's requirements and expectations make it impossible or inadvisable for students to take any courses for credit/no credit; others have concluded that it will be possible for students to take a single course or a single course that does not fulfill a core degree requirement for credit/no credit in each of the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

Please consult the [CCAS Graduate Credit/No Credit Policy for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021](#) to determine whether your graduate program has placed any restrictions on the courses you may take for credit/no credit. If your graduate program allows you to take courses for credit/no credit, please keep in mind that you must

achieve a final course grade of C- or higher to receive credit for the course (versus the D- or higher required for a "pass" in an undergraduate course).

Students who currently have academic standing issues should receive advice from their graduate program advisor and/or their academic success coach before deciding to take a course credit/no credit since CR/NC courses will not improve your GPA