

FAQs regarding the Pass/Fail Option for Undergraduate Students for Spring 2020

- *How do I elect to take a class Pass/Fail?*
Notify your Instructor in writing (via email) that you wish to complete the course on a Pass/Fail basis by 11:59 p.m. on April 10. No requests to switch to the Pass/Fail option will be accepted after that date.
- *What happens then?*
At the conclusion of the semester, your Instructor will mark the grade roster with the appropriate Pass/Fail grade.
- *Can I select the Pass/Fail option for **any** class?*
Yes, you can select the Pass/Fail option for any class **except** for those courses that require a certain grade in order to proceed to the next level or course in the sequence, or specific programs such as nursing and education. In those cases, you should consult with your advisor about whether you can opt for a Pass/Fail.
- *Even classes in my major?*
Yes, you may take major classes using the Pass/Fail option, but all students should remain mindful of the fact that they are required to maintain a minimum GPA in their major in order to graduate. A grade of "P" will carry no weight toward the major GPA and, therefore, will not improve academic standing in the major. Any grade of "F" will be calculated into a GPA, except for grades excluded by the Undergraduate Repeat Policy.
- *Can I take **all** of my classes on a Pass/Fail basis this Spring?*
Students may elect to take one, two, three, or all of their classes on a Pass/Fail basis for the Spring semester with exceptions as noted.
- *Will this change what my midterm grades look like?*
Remember, not all students receive midterm grades, but in the event that you do, they will continue to be standard letter grades (A-F), as will all other grades which you receive during the course of the semester. The Pass/Fail option will only impact the way the final course grade appears on the transcript, and the manner in which it is factored into the GPA.
- *I'm on academic probation this semester. Should I make use of the Pass/Fail option?*
The Pass/Fail option is not recommended for students who are on academic probation or who otherwise are trying to raise their GPA, either overall or within their major.
- *Will the Pass/Fail option affect my financial aid?*
As long as you continue to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP), electing the Pass/Fail option should not impact your financial aid. If you are presently on financial aid probation, it is recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office before electing the Pass/Fail option for any of your classes.
- *I am on a scholarship that requires that I maintain a specific GPA. Can I elect the Pass/Fail option?*

You can select the Pass/Fail option, but need to understand that, while a “P” will not affect your GPA, an “F” will. However, if this brings your GPA below that required for your scholarship, you will have a semester grace period to recover.

- *I am on academic probation. Can I consider the Pass/Fail option?*
Students on academic probation should seriously consider opting for a regular letter grade if they want to improve their GPA in order to get off probation. Please speak with an advisor if you have any questions.
- *I am in the Honors Program/Honors Academy. Is the Pass/Fail option available to me?*
Students in the Honors Program/Honors Academy who maintained the required GPA for the Fall semester will be permitted to take classes Pass/Fail for the Spring 2020 semester and retain their position in the Honors Program/Honors Academy for the Fall semester.
- *I am thinking of transferring to another school. Will classes I've taken as Pass/Fail be transferrable?*
Although we are unable to guarantee that another school will accept courses taken under the Pass/Fail option, we are hopeful that all U.S. Colleges and Universities will be understanding of the special challenges faced by college students during this time, and will be more willing to accept courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis.
- *I'm planning to go to graduate school. Should I make use of the Pass/Fail option?*
You can make use of the Pass/Fail option for many of your General Education requirements but please note that many medical schools and other graduate science programs will not accept grades of Pass/Fail for science or math classes taken at the undergraduate level. Also, if you are planning to enter a graduate program in the same field of study you are majoring in now (for example, psychology), the GPA within the major may be one of the criteria for acceptance into the graduate program. This extends to accelerated programs offered at FDU, which may be using performance in certain classes as the basis for continuation into the graduate program.
- *I'm in the QUEST Program. Should I make use of the Pass/Fail option?*
Students in the QUEST program should consult with their QUEST advisor regarding election of the Pass/Fail option. Since students in the QUEST program are required by the state to maintain a certain GPA for future licensure, the Pass/Fail option may not be an appropriate choice for QUEST students.
- *I'm in the nursing program. Can I make use of the Pass/Fail option?*
Nursing students cannot use the Pass/Fail option. They should consult with their advisor to determine if they can opt for Pass/Fail in any course. Health studies majors planning to transfer to nursing are required to have a 3.0 GPA.
- *I'm retaking a class this semester that I previously failed. Can I select the Pass/Fail option?*
Yes, you may select the Pass/Fail option for a previously failed class. Consistent with the University's Repeat Course policy, all grades earned for a course will continue to appear on the transcript but only the most recent grade earned will be factored into the GPA.

- *How **are** grades of "P" (pass) factored into my GPA?*
Grades of P carry no weight toward calculations of the GPA. They simply note the successful completion of a course.