

Re: P/NP grading in Fall 2020

Dear Undergraduate Students,

Representatives from Associated Students met with the Academic Senate this week to discuss the impact of the worsening pandemic situation on undergraduate students. As the fall quarter comes to a close, we acknowledge the high levels of stress and uncertainty that many students are feeling, and the concerns about academic performance.

The Academic Senate has coordinated with the Office of Undergraduate Education to extend the deadline for students to choose between letter grade and passed/not passed (P/NP) grading through the end of Week 10. Up to December 11th, students may go into GOLD and change the grading option for courses that already allow optional grading. If you submitted a request for a late grading option change after November 20th and it was denied, you may log into GOLD now through December 11th and make the change.

The College of Letters and Science considers requests for late drops of courses, primarily for academic reasons, until the grading option deadline. Therefore it will extend the deadline for late drops for academic reasons through December 11th. A student who submitted a request after November 20th to late drop a course for academic reasons may email academic_advising@Ltsc.ucsb.edu to ask for the request to be reconsidered. College advisors will also be reaching out to students whose requests were denied, asking if they would like their requests to be reconsidered.

The College of Engineering will exercise similar flexibility with respect to late drop requests for fall quarter that are received by December 11th. Please email your request to coe-info@engineering.ucsb.edu.

Students should consider the following important information in making their decision regarding the P/NP grading option:

- Grades in the range of D- through C- are all passing grades under letter grading, but all convert to NP under the P/NP option.
- Courses in the Preparation for a Major, Pre-Major courses, and Upper Division Major courses should all be taken for a letter grade.
- Students who are considering careers in law or in one of the health professions should contact a pre-professional advisor to be sure they understand how law schools, medical schools, etc., treat P/NP grades.

The types of courses that are eligible to be taken for P/NP grading has not changed at this time. Students should consult their academic advisors with questions. Rules detailing grading regulations are set by in UC Santa Barbara's [Senate Regulation 35](#).

Students dealing with severe extenuating circumstances that affect their academic performance, including illness, may have additional options. Such students should contact the academic advising staff in the appropriate College:

- [College of Letters and Science](#)
- [College of Engineering](#)
- [College of Creative Studies](#)

Please know that discussions about student well-being and academic success are central to the campus's ongoing pandemic response efforts. We continue to monitor the situation closely and seek to help students navigate this crisis while maintaining the high academic standards intrinsic to your UC education.

We wish you the best in your preparation for end-of-quarter assignments and examinations.

Sincerely,

Susannah Scott
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

Jeffrey Stopple
AVC for Undergraduate Education