



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Policy

In light of the unprecedented move to distance learning necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the distress this has placed on many students, PLU is expanding the option for undergraduate and graduate students to take courses Pass/Fail during Spring 2020. Expanded access to the Pass/Fail (P/F) grade mode aims to reduce student stress during this already-stressful time, while still providing a pathway to fulfill program and degree requirements. While students may decide to continue to pursue a letter grade (A-E) in their Spring 2020 classes, the P/F grade mode may be a sensible and stress-relieving option for some students. *Students are encouraged to consult with their advisor(s) prior to choosing the P/F option for any of their courses.*

Effective immediately, students may elect to switch some or all of their Spring 2020 courses to P/F. Academic units will communicate with students about potential implications of taking courses P/F within their program/major. Students should review program-specific communication and consult with their academic advisor regarding implications for accreditation, licensure, graduate school, and other areas of concern *before* pursuing the Pass/Fail option.

As per our existing P/F policy, faculty will continue to enter A-E letter grades at the end of the term. These grades are converted to P/F by the registrar for those students who have opted in.

The deadline to switch Spring 2020 courses to P/F has been extended to Friday, May 1st. Instructions for students requesting a switch to P/F are below.

Spring 2020 Exceptions to the Pass/Fail Policy

1. There is no limit on the number of Spring 2020 courses/credits allowed to be taken P/F.
2. Courses taken P/F may satisfy major and minor requirements, including capstone and minimum credit requirements, as well as International Honors and General Education courses. Due to accreditation standards, some programs may be unable to accept P/F grades. Students should consult their program for guidance.
3. Internships and independent studies may be taken P/F. Students should consult their program for guidance.
4. Students on Academic Probation may elect to take their courses P/F. Academic standing for all undergraduates will be treated in the same manner as January and Summer terms; students' academic standing may benefit (e.g., students can move from "academic probation" to "good standing"), but it will not be negatively impacted.

5. This policy does not apply to first-half of term classes (those classes that were completed prior to April 1, 2020).
6. Courses taken P/F for the Spring 2020 term will not count toward the standard 8 credit P/F limit.
7. In most cases, a prerequisite course taken in Spring 2020 that receives a passing grade will fulfill any prerequisite, regardless of the required minimum grade to advance to the next class. Students should consult their program for guidance.

Instructions for Switching Courses to P/F

Students will opt-in to P/F grades by completing an [online](#) form for each course for which they wish to make this change. Standard letter graded courses will remain in place unless the P/F form is submitted by 5 p.m. PST on Friday, May 1st. Incomplete or late requests will not be processed.

Because faculty may be adjusting course syllabi and expectations in light of the extended remote learning period, and because it is essential that students discuss P/F plans with an advisor, students are encouraged to take advantage of the full window of opportunity (April 1-May 1) to make these decisions.

Important Considerations for P/F:

- **The decision to switch to P/F is irreversible.**
- Students will continue to earn regular letter grades which faculty members will assess with their normal rubric. Students earning the equivalent of a C- or better will be awarded a passing grade.
- A grade of D+ or below is recorded as a failing grade.
- P/F grades do not affect a student's semester or cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- If a Spring 2020 course is a repeat of a previous course, earning a passing grade will replace the previous grade if the previous grade is 'C-' or lower. For additional information about repeats and P/F, contact the Registrar's Office.
- Instructors are NOT notified and typically are unaware that a student has elected to take their course on a P/F basis. Given the unusual circumstances of these policy exceptions, if students would prefer their instructors be aware of their decision, for whatever reason, students should be assured that instructors will be receptive and supportive.
- In the event that a standard letter grade is required for a graduate school application, students may request documentation of the original letter grade. However, the transcript will not be updated to include the standard letter grade.
- To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12-graded semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher (undergraduate level only).
- Before switching to P/F, students should review the [Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#) or [Graduate Satisfactory Progress Policy](#). P/F courses have no impact - either positive or negative - on grade point average, but they have the same impact on pace of completion as a graded course. Be aware that the proposed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and

Economic Security (CARES) Act allows institutions to exclude from Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) calculations any attempted credits that were not completed due to a qualifying emergency. Questions regarding PLU's SAP Policy and implications for scholarships or financial aid should be sent to the Office of Student Financial Services at sfs@plu.edu.

There are no expected immigration-related impacts on international students who elect to switch their courses to P/F.

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