

Pass/No-Pass Grade Policy

Murray State College is committed to your academic success. In order to provide flexibility while upholding academic integrity, we are offering an option for pass/no-pass (P/NP) grading for spring 2020 courses only.

Dates to Remember

May 11, 2020 is the final grade submission deadline, you will have **thirty (30) days** to view your assigned grades and elect pass/no-pass grading on a course-by-course basis. Your deadline to elect pass/no-pass grading is **Wednesday, June 10, 2020** at 5 p.m.

How P/NP Works

If pass/no-pass grading is selected, letter grades of D or better convert to a P (pass) and F grades convert to a NP (no pass). This policy exception is in accordance with guidance received from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Eligible Classes for P/NP

The pass/no-pass (P/NP) grading option will be available for classes in the main 16-week semester and short courses that end during the second eight weeks of the term (i.e., end date on or after March 9, 2020) that are graded on either a standard letter grade or pass/fail basis. Short courses that ended within the first eight weeks of the semester, before the COVID-19 pandemic impacted classes, are not eligible for optional pass/no-pass grading. Students in specialized programs such as Health Sciences should contact their department to determine if their courses are eligible for this option.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the pass/no-pass (or P/NP) grading option?

The P/NP grading option converts assigned letter grades to either a P (passing) or NP (not passing) grade, both of which are GPA-neutral and ignored by GPA calculations. P grades are considered passing, and courses with P grades will count in earned hours and toward degree requirements. An NP grade indicates “no pass” and indicates unsatisfactory work in courses on the pass/no-pass grading system. No credit is earned for courses with NP grades, and they will not meet degree requirements. Courses with NP grades are ignored in GPA calculations. Students enrolled in specialized programs such as Health Sciences should contact their department to determine if their courses are eligible for this option.

How will students elect P/NP grades for spring classes?

Students will have thirty (30) days after the May 11, 2020 grade submission deadline to view their assigned grades and select pass/no-pass grading on a course-by-course basis. An email will be sent to all enrolled students during finals week with information on how to make this selection.

Will students have a choice to elect any of their classes be graded on the P/NP system?

Students will be able to elect P/NP grading on a course-by-course basis for classes impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that are graded on either a standard letter grade or pass/fail basis. Classes in the main 16-week semester and short courses that end during the second eight weeks of the spring term (i.e. with an end date on or after March 9, 2020) are eligible for the P/NP option.

Short courses that ended in the first eight weeks of the semester, before the pandemic impacted classes, are not eligible for pass/no-pass grading.

While the decision to request P/NP grading rests solely with each student, we strongly encourage students to consult with their academic advisors for guidance. In addition, retaining letter grades for some classes may be helpful for some students for minimum GPA requirements that could impact eligibility for scholarships, continuing enrollment, honor rolls, etc.

How will original assigned grades convert to P/NP grades?

Letter grades of D or better convert to a P (pass) and F grades convert to an NP (no pass).

Students receiving incomplete (I) grades for courses with standard letter or pass/fail grades can request P/NP grading, and the P/NP grade conversion will not take place until a final grade is assigned by the instructor or the one-year time limit expires, whichever comes first. The final grade assigned, which could be the final default incomplete grade, would be converted to P/NP grades as outlined above. Until the final grade is assigned, only the incomplete (I) grade will display on the transcript.

How will P/NP grades affect my GPA?

Grades of P and NP are ignored in GPA calculations, and electing a P or NP grade will not lower your GPA. Some students may benefit by retaining letter grades to meet GPA requirements or for other considerations. GPA estimator tools are available online.

Will P/NP grades affect my financial aid?

The P/NP grades will only affect the PACE portion of Satisfactory Academic Progress for financial aid. Neither will affect the GPA.

For example, a grade of NP will work like a W in that it won't affect the GPA, but it will still be counted as attempted hours that weren't completed.

A grade of P will be counted as attempted hours that were completed but won't affect GPA either.

How long will students have to request P/NP grading for spring classes?

Students will have 30 days after the May 11 final grade submission deadline to view their assigned grades and elect pass/no-pass grading on a course-by-course basis. The deadline for students to request P/NP grading is Wednesday, June 10 at 5:00 PM. This deadline was determined to allow students adequate time to consult about and weigh their options after grades have been submitted.

Can students change their decision?

The option for students to elect P/NP grades must be made within the thirty (30) day deadline (no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, June 10, 2020). Students who learn after June 10, 2020 that a choice of P/NP grades has resulted in an unintended negative consequence can petition the Registrar for reverting back to the originally assigned grade. There will not be an option to request P/NP grades after the June 10, 2020 deadline.

How will P/NP grades count toward graduation requirements?

Courses with P grades in spring 2020 will meet MSC degree requirements except those in special programs such as Health Sciences. Courses with P or NP grades are ignored in GPA calculations, and will not lower a student's GPA for meeting degree requirements.

Some students may benefit by retaining letter grades to meet GPA requirements or for other considerations. Undergraduates can consult with their academic advisor.

How will P/NP grades be factored into the undergraduate repeat policy?

Courses with NP grades are automatically excluded from the GPA and have an inherent "forgiveness" similar to courses with an original grade of D or F that are subsequently repeated and qualify to be excluded from the GPA according to the repeat policy. Courses with NP grades will not count toward the maximum four course, 18-hour repeat limit. Repeated courses with a P grade will be treated similar to repeated courses with a grade of C or better, except that P grades are ignored in GPA calculations.

How will P/NP grades affect academic standing calculations?

Grades of P and NP are ignored in GPA calculations, and electing a P or NP grade will not lower your GPA. Undergraduates with at least 31 earned hours must maintain a minimum overall 2.00 GPA to remain in good academic standing (for students with 30 hours or less, a minimum overall 1.70 GPA is required). Students who receive all GPA-neutral grades will maintain the academic standing from their most recent previous term of enrollment.

It may be advantageous for students who are not in good academic standing to keep assigned letter grades of C or higher to raise their overall GPA to a minimum 2.00. Please consult with your academic advisor.

I am already on academic probation. How will P/NP grades affect my status and eligibility to enroll next semester?

Students on academic probation (including those admitted on probation) must earn a minimum semester GPA to be eligible for continued enrollment at MSC (generally a minimum 2.00 GPA for undergraduates with 31 or more earned hours, or a minimum 1.70 GPA for undergraduates with 30 or less earned hours). It may be advantageous for undergraduates on probation to keep assigned letter grades of C or higher to raise their overall GPA to a minimum 2.00. Please consult with your academic advisor.

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.