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UMaine pass/fail questions

Note: These UMaine/UMM FAQs are subject to change at any time. Please check this site regularly for the latest information as it becomes available. The most recent additions and changes are at the top of this page. Last modified April 23, 2020.

[UMaine PASS/FAIL QUESTIONS](#)[UMM PASS/FAIL QUESTIONS](#)[OTHER ACADEMIC QUESTIONS](#)

What is the academic standing policy (academic action) this semester?

Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances faced this semester amid the global pandemic, the University has relaxed its academic standing policy for the Spring 2020 term. As usual, students have been given the opportunity to improve their academic standing; however, fewer adverse actions will be applied in cases where students have not performed to their expectations.

Has the Dean's List policy been modified for Spring 2020 term?

Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances faced this semester amid the global pandemic, the University has modified its Dean's List policy for the Spring 2020 term. The requirement that students earn 12 calculable credits to be eligible for Dean's List has been waived. Instead, students will be eligible 1) if they earned Dean's List recognition in Fall 2019 and have placed all of their Spring 2020 courses on Pass/Fail; or 2) if they have earned a minimum GPA of a 3.5, regardless of the number of credits taken, in Spring 2020.

What are the steps undergraduates need to take for the pass/fail grade option?

Between April 10 and May 1, undergraduate students enrolled for the spring 2020 term may choose the pass/fail grade option for individual courses. Deadline for submission is May 1, 2020. The steps a student needs to take:

1. Review the [Pass/Fail Protocols](#).
2. Read the [FAQ's](#) specific to this topic.
3. Reach out to your academic advisors to ensure the Pass/Fail option will not affect your academic program or future goals. Reach out to the [Office of Student Financial Aid](#) to learn whether your aid package will be affected in any way by choosing the pass/fail option.
4. To select the pass/fail grade option, go to the [Student Records website](#) and select the button labeled "Pass/Fail Protocol – Spring 2020." This page provides a link to the [Student Selected Pass/Fail Request Form](#).
5. Using your UMS email account, send the completed form to Student Records at umrecord@maine.edu.

Can I still withdraw from a course this spring 2020 semester?

The deadline for withdrawing from individual courses has been extended to May 1, 2020. UMaine strongly encourages students to complete their classes if possible and to seek appropriate guidance from a variety of sources to address perceived barriers to completion and to best understand the implications of any decision to withdraw from a class. Students also are encouraged to seek guidance and help from the Office of Student Financial Aid, as needed. This extended deadline will apply only to the spring 2020 semester.

How does pass/fail grading impact continuing merit scholarship eligibility?

For continuing Merit Scholarship eligibility, students must meet the cumulative GPA required by their particular scholarship(s) along with other renewal criteria. Since there is no GPA associated with pass/fail classes, this grading option will not impact students' current cumulative GPA. Continuing merit scholarship eligibility is reviewed at the end of the spring semester. Students not meeting the renewal requirements will receive a notification from the Office of Student Financial Aid which will give information regarding submitting an appeal. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on Merit Scholarship probation for the following semester. If the appeal is not approved, the student will not be eligible for their scholarship until they meet the requirements of their particular scholarship(s).

Pass/fail option for spring 2020 undergraduate courses

These are extraordinary times for our faculty and students, and the change in class structure and pedagogy required at this midpoint in the semester is disruptive in many ways for all members of the university community. The goal of a new, one-time only (spring semester 2020) pass/fail grading option for all UMaine undergraduate classes is to assume a student-centric approach and provide a choice that maintains as best we can the academic integrity and learning outcomes at the end of this term. It is recognized that some students will be striving to improve their GPA, while others may be more concerned with keeping pace with their classes under changing circumstances or living in conditions that may not be conducive to studying or learning. Likewise, faculty may also be concerned about the integrity of exams or other graded assignments under a new pedagogical format to take effect on March 25, that may make the awarding of letter grades difficult to assign fairly. Faculty also may be concerned that a pass/fail option may minimize the motivation to learn. Recognizing both concerns, the idea behind this pass/fail option is to err on the side of student-centric interests at this time of great upheaval in all our lives — faculty and students alike.

UMaine [pass/fail protocols](#) are posted online.

Information on pass/fail for graduate courses is available on the [Research and Graduate School FAQ](#) page.

Does the instructor have to grant approval or permission for a student to switch to pass/fail?

No. It is the student's decision and it cannot be overruled by the instructor.

Will general education courses that students opt to change to pass/fail continue to count for general education courses?

Yes. Grades of LP or P will count to fulfill general education requirements.

Will major/minor/concentration courses students opt to change to pass/fail based on the new policy continue to count for major/minor/concentration courses?

- Yes. Grades of LP or P will count to fulfill those requirements unless the requirement is looking for a grade of "C" or higher.
- Grades of P will fulfill requirements looking for a grade of a "C" or better, but may not automatically pull into the student's Degree Progress Report. We can fix this once we are notified and will continue to look for a more automated way to address this situation.
- If the requirement requires a grade higher than a "C," students will need to check with the department to find out if they can take this option and have the course still count.

Can students who opt to change to pass/fail based on the new policy continue to have their courses count as prerequisites?

- Yes. Grades of LP or P will count to fulfill prerequisites unless the prerequisite needs to be a grade of "C" or higher.
- Grades of P will count to fulfill prerequisites requiring a grade of "C" or higher. We are working to add the pass/fail option to the prerequisite. This should allow students to register for the next course without a problem.
- Students registering for courses where the prerequisites require a grade higher than a "C" will need to discuss their preparation with the instructor.

How will students officially change course(s) from graded to pass/fail?

Students will receive an email from the Office of Student Records shortly before April 10 with a link to the pass/fail protocol and a fillable form to email to OSR from their maine.edu email. Instructors and associate deans will receive a copy of the email around the same time.

How will instructors know which students have elected to change the grading basis for their course(s) to pass/fail?

This information is available on MaineStreet in the Class Roster and the Grade Roster for the course.

What grade should instructors give if the student earns a "C-?"

Instructors should enter a "P" grade. For spring 2020, "P" grades will be considered a "C" or higher for purposes of prerequisites and fulfilling requirements that require a "C" or better grade. "LP" should be entered for grades in the "D" range.

Does the pass/fail protocol apply to non-degree students?

Yes, the protocol applies to non-degree students.

Does the pass/fail protocol apply to early college students?

Yes, with the approval of your high school guidance counselor and Early College Coordinator, Allison Small. To request the P/F option, early college students should contact Allison at allison.small@maine.edu.

What happens if a student is repeating a course and elects the pass/fail option?

The repeat process will work as it has in the past. The prior grade will no longer count in the student's Grade Point Average. Any credits earned will no longer count. Credits earned for the current course will count. Because the course is being taken pass/fail, the grade earned (whether P, LP, or F) will not be calculated in the GPA.

If students are unsure whether to elect Pass/Fail grading, where should they get advice?

Students should reach out to their advisor or instructor to discuss what is best for their situation.

