



University of Kentucky
College of Social Work
Diane N. Loeffler, Director of Undergraduate Studies

To: College of Social Work Undergraduate Students
RE: Pass/Fail Options for SPRING 2020
Date: UPDATED APRIL 20, 2020 – REPLACING MEMO FROM March 26, 2020

Dear Social Work Undergraduates –

First, let me say how proud I am of you all. You have shown incredible persistence throughout this unprecedented pandemic crisis. I continue to be impressed with your commitment to learning. If there is anything the college can do to support you during this time, please let us know.

On April 16, 2020 the University Senate met to re-calibrate their previous PASS FAIL grading options for the SPRING 2020 semester. This replaces any previously circulated information.

The University Senate Council voted to permit “P” grades under the pass/fail grading option to satisfy all undergraduate graduation requirements. Our college supports the decision by the Senate Council, and I wanted to let you know how it changes our previous policy on Spring 2020 Pass/Fail grading.

There are no longer restrictions on undergraduate courses that can be taken as Pass/Fail. Students may now petition for Pass/Fail grading in any course in which they are enrolled this semester. **Successful completion of pre-major and major required courses with a “P” will fulfill degree requirements. All students wishing to elect for pass fail grading should contact your advisor with “Pass/Fail request” in the email subject line. A short conference with your advisor (email, phone, or Zoom) will be necessary to make this change. Your advisor will want to check in to make sure this is a good decision for you/that you understand the P/F grading model. This change may be made before April 30.**

I hope the majority of you have found success in your transition to online learning. Students should consider the additional information related to electing for pass/fail grading, which were discussed in our previous communications (and are listed below). We are here to support you as you think through this decision. If you have any questions, please reach out to your advisor for additional clarification.

Additional Information for Students:

- What does Pass/Fail mean? This means that you have elected to take a class P/F, not on the A, B, C, D, E, scale. Your **instructor** will not know you are taking a class pass/fail and will still submit a final grade for you at the end of term. The Registrar’s Office will then assign the grade based on the earned grade. Grades of A, B, C, D will be a PASS and an E will be a FAIL. If you have a P grade you will receive credit for passing the class but it will not count in your GPA.
- Students may utilize the option at their discretion in each class.
- What if I need a certain grade as a prerequisite for another class? The class can still be taken P/F however the

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original letter grade submitted by your instructor may be used to determine whether you have met a grade prerequisite for a future class.

- To earn a P grade, students **must participate fully in the course and complete all course requirements** to meet learning outcomes.
- How many classes can be changed to P/F? There is no limit. However, before making a decision you should read the following considerations and discuss this decision with your academic advisor.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- ***PCWCP** students should consult with Erin Mayhorn prior to utilizing the pass/fail option as it may not be allowable in their contract.
- ****UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS** may not utilize Pass/Fail in their graduate level courses in the College of Social Work.
- **GPA** – if you will earn an A or B in a class, consider keeping your graded option. If you change your grading option to P/F your GPA will not improve, no matter how well you do in the class.
- **TIMING** – The decision must be made no later than April 30. *Once you make the change you may not change back to a graded option. Please do not contact your advisor on the afternoon of April 30, plan at least a day or two lead time.*
- **REPEAT OPTION** – if you are taking a class for the second time and plan to file a Repeat Option so that the second grade can replace the first, then both grades must be letter grades. P/F will not count.
- **ACADEMIC STATUS:** students on academic probation should talk with their advisor about how P/F options will impact their status. Remember, P/F courses do not improve your GPA.
- **FINANCIAL AID:** *If you have a scholarship or other financial aid that requires a certain GPA or a certain number of hours be sure to contact your Financial Aid advisor or the Office of Academic Scholarship to confirm whether you may change to P/F.*
- **ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETES:** If your eligibility for NCAA or club sports/activities requires a certain GPA on a certain number of hours, you may not be able to change courses to a P/F. Be sure to contact your CATS advisor or coaching staff to confirm.
- **SPECIAL PROGRAMS:** If you are involved in any special programs (ROTC, PCWCP, Parker Scholar, Honors, etc.) be sure to double check with them to confirm whether P/F options will satisfy requirements.

ACADEMIC HONORS:

The following conditions will apply in the determination of Dean's List and Latin Honors:

- Require enrollment in at least 12 credit hours, with at least 9 credit hours taken for a "letter" grade.
- Any courses taken as P/F must receive a P.
- GPA requirements for honors would be the same as currently required.
- No "I" grades are allowed. However, retroactive honors are possible once course requirements are complete and a grade is awarded.

Faculty will still grade all students using the undergraduate grading scale, as outlined in the course syllabus. Faculty do not need to do anything differently. The Pass/Fail grade is assigned by the Registrar's Office, not the faculty of record.