FAQs for P/NP Grades in Fall 2020

What is P/NP and how does it affect my GPA?

- Pass/Not Pass is a grading option that allows students to complete a course without the grade affecting the cumulative UC GPA.
- P/NP courses count for unit requirements but do not count toward your GPA. More information is available on TritonLink.
- Course work must be equivalent to C- or better to receive a grade of P.

University policy states no more than 25% of my total UC San Diego units may be taken P/NP when I graduate. How will taking courses P/NP in Fall 2020 affect this?

Courses taken for P/NP in Fall 2020 will be included in the 25% P/NP calculation. Students must be within this limit in order to graduate.

I received a D or F in a course previously, can I repeat it with the P/NP option?

Yes. Fall 2020 courses that are changed to P/NP will be allowed for a repeat of a class in which a D or F grade was earned in an earlier term. Students are advised to consult with their department and college advisors about the impacts of taking the course for a P/NP grade on their degree progress. If the D or F grade you are repeating is within your first 16 units of repeated D/F/NP course work, that grade will be removed from your GPA.

If I take all of my classes P/NP in Fall 2020, what will happen to my academic standing?

With all P grades, your term GPA will be 0.0, and your academic status will continue from your last enrolled quarter. Note that your academic standing will not appear on your official transcript, and your college will not act on any academic status if you earn all P grades in Fall 2020.

My major/minor requires courses be taken for a letter grade. For Fall 2020, can I take courses for major/minor requirements for P/NP?

For Fall 2020 courses, the Division of Biological Sciences will accept P grades for major or minor requirements. Note, students must have a minimum 2.0 major/minor GPA to graduate.

Students declared outside of the Division of Biological Sciences should visit their major/minor department(s) website for information on P/NP policies for Fall 2020 and contact them through the VAC if you have additional questions.
Are colleges making exceptions and allowing P/NP in GE requirements normally required for a letter grade?

Please contact your college advising office for information on P/NP policies for Fall 2020. They can be reached through the VAC.

I'm an international student on a visa. Are there any restrictions on taking courses P/NP?

F-1 or J-1 International students can take courses P/NP. Units for courses taken P/NP will be counted towards their full course of study requirements to maintain their visa status. International students are required to maintain a full course of study (12 units) or must be authorized for a reduced course load by ISPO.

I am a recipient of Veterans Benefits. Are there restrictions or effects of me taking courses P/NP in Fall 2020?

Your housing allowance/stipend may be reduced if you receive NP grades. The VA will not pay for units that receive a NP grade (non-punitive), as the units do not count toward your degree progress and are not factored into your GPA. Units that are graded NP must be deducted from your certified unit load. If this drops you below 12 units your housing allowance/stipend will be reduced accordingly and the VA will bill you for the balance. Please contact Lisa Linares – llinares@ucsd.edu for further details.

I receive Financial Aid. Are there restrictions or effects of me taking courses P/NP in Fall 2020?

Potentially. All students are required to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements, which includes a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). As a P/NP grading option does not affect a student’s GPA, a student’s academic performance for the rest of the year will determine if they meet the overall SAP GPA requirement for the year. To review SAP requirements please visit http://faoforms.ucsd.edu/forms/SAPstandardsUndergrad.pdf.

In addition, some individual financial aid awards (for example outside scholarships or Veteran benefits) may also require students to meet certain GPA requirements to remain eligible. For more information, please contact the awarding agency.

I'm an NCAA Scholar-Athlete. Are there restrictions or effects of me taking courses P/NP in Fall 2020?

When choosing to take courses for letter grade vs P/NP, be sure your GPA will still meet NCAA requirements. Students should confirm that the course will be acceptable for their major/college/university requirement on a P/NP basis to ensure it will be acceptable for NCAA eligibility. As long as your courses can be applied towards major/college/university requirements on the P/NP basis, the class can also be counted for NCAA eligibility requirements (6-unit quarterly requirements, annual 27-hour requirement and percentage of degree requirements). Any questions or concerns about P/NP’s impact on your NCAA eligibility can be directed to Mary Angell (mcangell@ucsd.edu) or Katie McGann (kmcgann@ucsd.edu).
Will this affect my graduate or professional school applications?

Please utilize information on the [Career Center website](#).

How do I change Fall 2020 classes from Letter Grade to P/NP?

This option will be accessible from January 4th-29th, 2021, and additional information about the submission process will be emailed to students’ @ucsd.edu account, prior to this timeframe.

Campus Information

*Exception & Process:* For FA20 courses, the Educational Policy Committee of the Academic Senate is offering undergraduate students a *one time only* option to petition to retroactively change grading options from *Letter to Pass/No Pass*. The option will be accessible from January 4th-29th, 2021, and additional information about the submission process will be emailed to students’ @ucsd.edu account, prior to this timeframe.

Fall 2020 Retroactive grade option change information:

1) The process for students to request a retroactive grade change from letter grade to P/NP for fall 2020 will be a streamlined process that will NOT require students to get the instructor or department chair signature. The official process for students to request a retroactive grade change from letter grade to P/NP for fall 2020 has *not been decided/finalized*. But the details will be released before the January 4th timeline (when students can start to request the changes). Please do not start trying to collect signatures via the traditional petition route. The process to request the grading option change will be available during the first four weeks of Winter 2021: January 4 - January 29, 2021. No action is needed at this time.

2) All requests to go from a letter grade to P/NP for fall 2020 will be approved. *No extenuating circumstances need to be documented to do so.*

3) Students who earn an NP grade for a course are able to retake the course for a letter grade in a future quarter.

4) Students requesting to change the grading option from P/NP to Letter grade would require the regular petition route as the instructor would need to verify that they know what letter grade the student would actually earn. It is not a guaranteed approval. Students should submit a detailed personal statement explaining the need for the reversal of the grade option change.

Details can be found on the [Academic Senate](#) website.