

Temporary P/NP Policy – 2020

Purpose: Expand and allow more flexible use of P/NP by units and students to ease the disruption and mitigate possible negative GPA impacts of the sudden move to the unfamiliar situation of 'COVID-Remote'.

What were the changes?

- Chairs/Deans have temporary authority to change Graded Only (A-F) courses to P/NP or P/NP Optional without going through formal UCC/GC approval processes.
- Extended deadline for students to change their grading options. Moved from Monday of Week 7 to Monday of Week 10.
- Added a Term Notation on the official transcript for spring, summer and fall 2020 to provide context for downstream consumers of the transcript for the expanded use of P/NP during the exceptional terms.
- Relaxation of Academic Restrictions on P/NP Credit
 - 45/25 Rule – No more than 45 total credits of Pass, and at least 25 of the last 45 must be graded. Pass credit during Spring, Summer and Fall do not apply to these limits.
 - All Pass grades earned will apply to major/program requirements without restriction (both UG and GR).
 - Prerequisites/corequisites – modifications made to upcoming registration periods to allow these Pass grades to satisfy pre/co-reqs.
 - Latin Honors – requires 72 credits at PSU, and 60 of those credits must be Graded (A-F). Relaxed the 60, sufficiently to accommodate any P credit earned spring, summer or fall.

Spring 2020 By-the-Numbers

Missing Grades

One measure of how well we think end of term grading goes, relates to how many Missing grades are submitted when grading closes. (A Missing grade is inserted automatically if an instructor has failed to submit grades when we close grading.) Obviously, the fewer the better.

Below are the numbers for 2019/2020 Academic Year:

Fall term: 1655 "M" grades rolled out of 47,723 total individual grades (96.5% graded)

Winter term: 1893 "M" grades rolled out of 45,698 total individual grades (96% graded)

Spring term: 1463 "M" grades rolled out of 48,285 total individual grades (97% graded)

The good news is that the number of Missing grades for spring term was better than normal. We usually hover around 4-5 %.

P/NP Policy impacts:

Number of P/NP Optional courses offered increased dramatically (more than doubled) during spring '20 over spring '19, as we expected and encouraged.

Spring 2019: 786 sections offered optional grading (695 UG and 91 GR)

Spring 2020: 1,742 sections offered optional grading (1,261 UG and 481 GR)

The # of Students Choosing P/NP Option increased dramatically, driven by both the Remote and the end of term disruptions:

Spring 2020:

There were 8,647 discrete P/NP course registrations, representing 5,007 unique students.

UG - 4,323 students

GR - 536 students

PB - 107 students

NA - 41 students

Spring 2019

There were 858 discrete P/NP course registrations, representing 722 unique students.

UG = 675

GR = 21

PB = 14

NA = 12

How well did the students do in the P/NP courses in spring 2020?

For the 8,647 P/NP registrations, the grades earned.

Pass = 6,537

No Pass = 1,388

Incomplete = 317

Grade of X = 161

Missing Grades = 244

Number of I, X, and M grades:

We wondered if the grading would be negatively impacted by the end of term disruptions so we compared spring '19 with spring '20. The number of 'non-graded' instances was higher in spring '20 than '19, but it was not wildly different, and reasonably expected given the circumstances.

Spring 2019

I = 833

M = 1,144

X = 442

Spring 2020

I = 986

M = 1,463

X = 540

Spring Term Academic Standing:

Academic Warning = 90 students

Academic Probation = 79

Dismissal and removed from their fall 2020 classes = 63

The P/NP policy change and faculty leniency seems to have had an impact. Usually more than 200 students go on warning in spring and 100 or more are dismissed.

What are other OPU schools doing?

- UO – extended through fall 2020, will resume NORMAL policy winter 2021
- SOU – extended through fall 2020, uncertain about status for winter 2021
- OHSU – did not extend beyond Summer 2020.
- OSU – did not extend P/NP leniency beyond Spring 2020
- EOU – did not extend P/NP leniency beyond Spring 2020
- WOU – did not extend P/NP leniency beyond Spring 2020
- OIT – maintained standard policy throughout (dealt with exceptions via appeals process)