FAQ's for Graduate Students: Pass/Fail (P/F) Option

How will the Pass/Fail option impact my academic requirements?
- ❖ For Spring 2020 only, *you can take any class Pass/Fail that you are enrolled in as of March 20, 2020 when the opt-in Pass/Fail policy was announced.* Thus, you may use any course taken P/F in Spring 2020 to satisfy the academic requirements for MSE degrees, PhD degrees, and dual degrees.

I've decided to opt-in for Pass/Fail grading. How do I change my grade type?
- ❖ If you would like to opt-in for the Pass/Fail option for a class(es), please complete the [Petition for Change of Grading Option](#). You will receive an automated email once the change has been processed.
- ❖ The deadline to do so is **April 29th, 2020 by 5pm.** However, we encourage you to make your decisions by April 27th to allow processing time in RAS.

If I am a submatriculant, will Pass/Fail classes count towards both my undergraduate and master's degrees? How do I change my grade type?
- ❖ Yes, classes taken Pass/Fail will count towards both degrees, if double counting for the Spring 2020 term. Submatriculants can change to Pass/Fail through Penn in Touch by April 29. Submatriculants do not have to complete the petition link above.

I've decided to opt-in for pass/fail grading. How does the instructor know how to evaluate my work?
- ❖ Instructors do not know who has selected P/F. Thus, instructors will evaluate all students using the same criteria and then assign a letter grade for each student . If you earn a grade of D or better, you will receive a "P" on your transcript.

How many classes can I take Pass/Fail?
- ❖ You may choose to take all, some, or none of your classes as P/F this semester.

What happens if I do not choose the Pass/Fail option for any classes by April 29?
- ❖ All classes will be given a letter grade unless you choose the Pass/Fail option.

After receiving my final letter grade, can I change to Pass/Fail ?
- ❖ No. If you have already received a grade (letter grade, I, or GR) you may not change the grade type. The policy does not pertain to courses that have already ended or for which a grade has already been issued.

After receiving my Pass/Fail grade, can I change to a letter grade?
- ❖ No. Once you receive a grade, you may not change the grade type.

If I opt-in to Pass/Fail by April 29th, can I revert it back to a letter grade before the end of the term?

❖ No. Once you opt in to Pass/Fail, you are only taking the course Pass/Fail. No further changes, except withdrawing from the course completely, can be made.

How will the Pass/Fail option impact my academic standing?

❖ Master's students on academic probation will get an automatic one semester extension to their probation period. They will be taken out of probation as soon as their GPA goes above 2.7 during the extended probation period. PhD students on academic probation will be handled on a case by case basis.

❖ Pass/Fail does not impact the GPA; only letter grades (A-F).

How will the new Pass/Fail rules affect international students and their visa status?

❖ According to ISSS, the Pass/Fail option will still maintain full-time student status for international students.

Will I still be eligible for CPT if any of my six cu's are taken as P/F?

❖ Yes, any classes taken P/F will count towards your CPT eligibility.

I am writing a thesis for my master's degree. Can this be taken P/F?

❖ Yes.

Will current policy hold that, if students choose Pass/Fail and pass a course, they cannot repeat the course later to earn a letter grade?

❖ You cannot repeat a course that you have passed for a letter grade.

How will the Pass/Fail option impact my application if I plan to apply for an Accelerated Master's degree, add a dual degree or transfer to another master's program (within SEAS)?

❖ Accelerated Master's, dual degree and transfer applications that use a GPA cutoff will consider Pass/Fail grades from this semester. However, the final admissions criteria is up to the department or program. For example, the Data Science (DATS) program requires letter-grades on some courses when evaluating the dual degree or transfer application. Check with the department or program you are applying to in order to clarify admissions criteria.

Can I take any classes in a future term as Pass/Fail or change a past term grade of incomplete ('I') to Pass/Fail?

❖ Currently this is only for the Spring 2020 term. An incomplete from a prior term cannot be converted to Pass/Fail.