

Spring 2020 Semester Pass/Fail Q&A

We are making changes to the Pass/Fail policies for the Spring 2020 semester only. Students need to submit the Pass/Fail form (myHill > Students > Academics > Registration Forms). A professor is not notified when a course is taken as Pass/Fail. The professor submits the letter grade earned in the course by the student to the Registrar's Office. If the letter grade earned is a D or higher, then the grade of P is entered on the transcript. If the letter grade earned is an F, then the grade of F is entered on the transcript.

This Q&A will be updated over time as circumstances evolve.

Deadline

Q: When is the last day I can choose to Pass/Fail?

A: The deadline for choosing Pass/Fail for the Spring 2020 semester is **Wednesday, April 29**.

Q: When is the new deadline for choosing to withdraw from a course?

A: The deadline for withdrawing from a course for the Spring 2020 semester is **Wednesday, April 29**.

Honors

Q: Can I pass/fail a class for the Moreau Honors Program? And still graduate with honors?

A: Yes, for this semester only, you can Pass/Fail a class for the honors program and are still eligible to graduate with honors.

Q: Can I still make the Dean's List if I take a course Pass/Fail?

A: For the spring 2020 semester only, a student who chooses to take a course under the Pass/Fail Option must have a minimum of nine (9) additional credits from courses graded with standard letter grades to be considered for the Dean's List.

Q: Can you elaborate on the ramifications for GPA-based Latin honors at graduation with the new Pass/Fail policy?

A: When a student earns a P in a Pass/Fail course, the course does not count toward their GPA. Whether or not a student earns Latin Honors at graduation is determined by their cumulative GPA. See the Hill Book for more details on Latin honors at graduation.

Financial Aid

Q: Will taking a course Pass/Fail impact my merit scholarship or other forms of financial aid?

A: Merit scholarship and other sources of financial aid renewal will continue based on a student's calculated GPA and therefore changing to Pass/Fail will not impact renewal. Students still need to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirement. Failure to do so would result in loss of aid, including merit scholarships. For more information on Satisfactory Academic Progress, visit <https://www.stonehill.edu/offices-and-services/financial-aid/faqs/sap/>

Advancement Through a Major or Program of Study

Q: Some courses are considered foundational for a major and need a grade of C- or better to advance. How will Pass/Fail impact these courses?

A: Students should consult with their academic advisor before making the decision to take a course Pass/Fail. In those cases where a course grade of a C- or better is necessary for advancement, the student must continue in that course for a letter grade. Courses offered this semester that require a letter grade for advancement include: BIO 102, BUS 203, CHM 113, CHM 221, CHM 232, CHM 244, MTH 126. Students in courses that are part of a capstone sequence should consult with their academic advisor or department chair.

Q: Can I repeat a course taken as Pass/Fail in a subsequent semester for a letter grade?

A: Courses taken as Pass/Fail and for which you earned a P can be repeated for a letter grade; courses taken as Pass/Fail for which you earned an F can be repeated for a letter grade or as Pass/Fail.

Graduate and Professional (e.g., Law, Medical, etc.) School Admission and Professional Licensure Programs

Q: I am taking one or more classes during the Spring 2020 semester as Pass/Fail—will that count against me in the graduate or professional (e.g., law, medical, etc.) school admissions process?

A1: Graduate and professional school admissions committees are looking at the whole picture, not just one grade or set of grades. What's more, they welcome addenda explaining anomalies in your academic record. A brief explanation of the circumstances will suffice to allay any concerns they might have. This is true whether you're applying this year or several years from now with perhaps an odd-looking Spring 2020 semester. And of course, many applicants in the future will have odd-looking Spring 2020 semesters on their transcripts.

A2: Before taking a class for Pass/Fail, students should consult with their academic advisor, the Pre-Health Advisor, Andrew Leahy (aleahy@stonehill.edu) the Pre-Law Advisor, Professor Rob Rodgers (rrodgers@stonehill.edu), and for CPA Licensure requirements, Alex Yen (ayen@stonehill.edu).

Q: What if I need a letter grade in a particular course for professional licensure or entry into a specific graduate program?

A: Before deciding to take a course for Pass/Fail, you should consult with your academic advisor or the licensure officer/advisor in your major program. Many graduate programs will not accept undergraduate courses to count in their program if the course was taken Pass/Fail.