

TAKING COURSES FOR PASS/FAIL Q&A SPRING 2020

Taking a Course for Pass/Fail Q&A

What does 'take a course Pass/Fail' mean?

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.

How does a Pass/Fail affect my GPA?

A grade of P will not count towards your GPA calculation. A grade of F will count towards your GPA calculation.

What is the deadline for taking a course for Pass/Fail?

The last day of classes, **Wednesday, April 29**, is the deadline for submitting the Pass/Fail Request Form to the Registrar's Office.

What do I need to think about before deciding to take a course for Pass/Fail?

Before you decide to take a course for Pass/Fail, check with your academic advisor to make sure that you understand the advantages and disadvantages of taking a course for Pass/Fail.

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?

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 101, BUS 203, CHM 113, CHM 221, CHM232, CHM 244, and MTH 126.

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

Merit scholarship and other sources of financial aid renewal will continue based on a 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 the Standards of Academic Progress for Financial Aid Recipients, visit the [Financial Aid FAQs webpage](#).

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

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.

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?

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. 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 (rroddgers@stonehill.edu), and for CPA Licensure requirements, Alex Yen (ayen@stonehill.edu).

As a member of the Moreau Honors Program, can I Pass/Fail an Honors course and still graduate as a Moreau Honors Scholar?

For this semester only, you can Pass/Fail an Honors course and still be eligible to graduate as a Moreau Honors Scholar.

Can I still earn Dean's List if I take a course for Pass/Fail?

To be eligible for Dean's List, you must earn a semester's GPA of at least 3.50 (your semester's GPA will be based only on the courses for which you earn traditional letter grades), you must be carrying at least 12 credits, nine (9) credits must be traditionally graded, and you must not have withdrawn from any classes after the Add/Drop period.

Is the ability to earn Latin Honors at graduation impacted by the interim Pass/Fail policy?

Latin honors awarded at graduation is determined by a student's cumulative GPA (*i.e.*, 3.50 – 3.69 for *Cum Laude*; *Magna*; 3.70 – 3.89 for *Cum Laude*; 3.90 – 4.00 for *Summa Cum Laude*), which is based only on the courses in which traditional letter grades were earned.

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

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

How do I take a course for Pass/Fail?

Submit the Pass/Fail Request Form – Spring 2020, which is available in myHill > Students > Academics > Registration Forms.

What else do I need to know about taking classes Pass/Fail this semester?

1. All undergraduate students can designate courses as Pass/Fail this semester.
2. If you are taking 15 or more credits this semester, you can take three (3) classes Pass/Fail.
3. If you're taking fewer than 15 credits, you can take two (2) classes Pass/Fail.
4. You can take most classes Pass/Fail this semester, including general education courses and courses for your major and minor.
5. If you are taking a course that is part of a Capstone sequence, you should consult with your academic advisor or department chair or program director prior to taking the course for Pass/Fail.
6. Undergraduate courses taken Pass/Fail this semester will not count towards the College's maximum four-course limit on the total courses that can be taken Pass/Fail for credit towards a degree.
7. An undergraduate student who earns a grade of D or higher will receive a grade of Pass for the course.
8. A grade of Pass will not count towards the GPA calculation; a Failing grade will count towards the GPA calculation.
9. **If you are taking a class Pass/Fail, you must still fulfill many of the requirements for the class.** A professor is not notified when a student takes a course for Pass/Fail. You are evaluated on all requirements of the course and at the end of the semester the professor submits the letter grade you earned to the Registrar's Office. If the letter grade earned is a D or higher, then the grade of P is entered on your transcript. If the letter grade earned is an F, then the grade of F is entered on the transcript.

The College remains committed to your academic progress and well-being, and our faculty as well as the staff in the Office of Academic Services & Advising (academicservices@stonehill.edu; 508-565-1306) are here to support you in your decision-making process.

The above *Interim* policies are different from our regular policies, and they reflect the special circumstances we are operating under this semester. They take effect immediately and are in effect for the Spring 2020 semester only. Any conflict between the *Interim* Policies that are outlined above, and existing policies will be construed in favor of the *Interim* Policies. These *Interim* Policies are subject to change in order to comply with any subsequent interim guidance or mandates by the government.