



St. Francis College Pass/No Credit Alternative Grading Option Spring 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. How do I request the P or NC grade option?

A. First, it is recommended that you review the letter grades assigned by the course instructors and consult with your academic advisors. After consultation, you can complete the application [here](#). There are specific restrictions based on specific courses and majors. See below for explanation.

Q. What is the timeframe for declaring a course P/NC?

A. The P/NC is open now until midnight on May 21. However, once you request the P/NC grade, you are not eligible to revoke it.

Q. What happens if a student does not request that a class be graded as P/NC?

A. Unless a student specifically chooses the P or NC, they will be graded in the traditional grading scale.

Note, all F grades will be converted to grades of NC by the Office of the Registrar and students do not have to submit a form for this purpose.

Students receiving the NC grade will not receive applicable credit for the course, the grade will not be calculated in their grade point average, and the course will not count as a pre-requisite.

Q. If I select the P/NC grade for a course, how is my grade determined?

A: The instructor of your class will assign a letter grade at the end of the semester. Students may select to convert a letter grade of D or higher to a grade of P (Pass). Students may select to convert a final letter grade of F to a NC (No Credit). The grade will not be calculated in their grade point average.

Note, all F grades will be converted to grades of NC by the Office of the Registrar and students do not have to submit a form for this purpose.

Students receiving the NC grade will not receive applicable credit for the course, the grade will not be calculated in their grade point average, and the course will not count as a pre-requisite.

Q. What majors or courses are not included in this alternative grading option (P/NC)?

The following courses are exceptions to this policy and not eligible for pass-fail status:

- Math (MAT), science (BIO, CHEM, PHY), and writing (WRI) courses taken for the Radiological Sciences major
- (NUR 2221) Intensive Skills Lab, (NUR 3001) Nursing Informatics, (NUR 3501) Nursing Seminar I, (NUR 4448) Nursing Care of Child & Family, (NUR 4446) Psychiatric Nursing, (NUR 4600) Nursing Research, (NUR 4440) Med-Surg Nursing Crit Care, (NUR 4444) End of Life, (NUR 3423) Nursing Leadership & Management, and (NUR 4502) Nursing Seminar II
- Math (MAT), science (BIO, CHEM, PHY), and writing (WRI) courses taken for the Nursing major
- All AED, SED, EC, ED and PE and other courses taken for teacher preparation in the Education Department

*Please note that Pass/No Credit courses may not be accepted as transfer credit by other institutions and may not be accepted as pre-requisites for graduate school. Also, P/NC courses may not be eligible for some tuition reimbursement programs that require a C or better. **Students should consult with major department and/or academic advisor to determine what is in their best interest.***

Students enrolled in the SFC Nursing Program and Education Majors should consult with their advisors regarding what options are open to you consistent with accreditation requirements.

Q. Can a P/NC grade course meet General Education requirements?

A. Students who earn a P grade, in a Spring 2020 course, may use the course to fulfill any graduation requirements, including all general education requirements. The only exceptions are listed above.

Q. Will the credits from a course recorded as P/NC count toward graduation?

Students will receive course credit toward graduation for any class in which they earn a P grade. Students will not receive course credit toward graduation for any class which they earn a NC.

Q. How will graduate and professional schools view grades reported as P/NC?

A. Many institutions have already gone to some type of alternative grading option for spring 2020. That being the case, one can reasonably expect that graduate and professional schools will take the unique circumstances in mind as they consider applications. If you are planning on attending graduate or professional school, you may want to elect to receive letter grades. We recommend you discuss the option with your academic advisor or faculty member.

Q. Does the course instructor have to grant approval or permission for student to switch to P/NC?

A. No. It is a student's decision to convert a letter grade to P/NC and it cannot be overruled by the instructor.

Q. Will students who opt into P/NC grades and who earn a P still be able to repeat the course?

A. Yes. Regardless of the grade earned and recorded, courses recorded as P or NC can be repeated. Note, since a P graded course is considered "complete" for TAP funding, when repeating P graded courses, the student will require Department Chair approval if they are enrolled in 12 or less credits.

Q. Will P and NC grades impact my ability to meet financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards?

- A. To maintain SAP, students are expected to maintain a **2.0 grade point average** as they work towards the completion of their degrees. Federal regulations require that a student make steady progress toward degree completion by earning a minimum number of credit hours each semester. Progress is measured for all students by semester. The required percentage of credits completed is listed below:
- Freshmen < 67% for 0 - 28 credits
 - Sophomores < 67% for 29 – 59 credits
 - Upperclassmen < 67% for 60 – 96 credits

Earned credit hours include grades of A through D & P. Additionally, students are required to demonstrate satisfactory progress through course completions. This is calculated as a percentage of completed courses compared to attempted courses.

P and NC graded courses are counted in the total number of attempted hours. When a student completes a course with a P grade, the credits are added to the total number of earned credits hours but the Pass grade is not included in the GPA calculation. The NC (no credit) grade as well as W

(Withdrawal) will count towards credits attempted but not completed, and both the NC and W grade will not impact GPA.

Therefore, earning a NC grade will negatively impact the credit progression but not the GPA. Students who will require a SAP appeal may include circumstances related to COVID-19, including, but not limited to, the illness of a student or family member, compliance with a quarantine period, or the general disruption resulting from such an outbreak as a basis for their SAP appeal. While these circumstances have not been specifically articulated in the College's policy they will be deemed acceptable for spring 2020 appeals.

Q. If I desire a course P/NC, can it be used in a future semester as a course pre-requisite that requires a minimum grade?

A. Yes, students who earn a P grade in a Spring 2020 course may use the course to fulfill a pre-requisite minimum grade requirement in a future semester. NC grades will not satisfy any requirements.

Q. Does a P/NC course affect my GPA?

A. A grade of P or NC will not factor into your GPA

Q. I am a student-athlete. How does receiving a P/NC grade affect my eligibility for athletics next year?

A. Any student-athlete should contact their athletic academic advisor before choosing the alternative grade.

Q. How will the P/NC grades appear on my transcript?

A. For courses where the P/NC grade have been elected, the course grade will appear as a P or NC on the transcript.

Q. What if I change my mind and want the grade changed back to a regular A-F grading?

A. Once you submit the change request for P/NC grading, it cannot be changed back to the original grade.

Q. What other factors should I consider before deciding to convert a grade to P/NC?

A. A student who is doing well in a course should keep their strong letter grade to improve GPA. A student who is concerned about the impact to graduate or professional school may not want to convert to a P/NC. A student who plans to enter a profession where a letter grade is critical for competitive employment may want to keep a strong letter grade.

Q. If I have additional questions about converting any of my course grades to a P/NC, who can I contact?

A. Connect with your advisor or an Academic Dean to discuss your choice and the impact your choice may have for your future plans.