

Spring 2020 Pass/Fail: Honors College Guidelines and Best Practices

Background: The University of Maine has extended the time frame for undergraduate students to select a pass/fail option in each undergraduate course for this term. Students are able to elect to take a pass/fail grade any time **between April 10 and May 1, 2020**, for any of their Spring 2020 courses. In order to select a pass/fail option, students will need to complete an online form, to be made available by the Office of Student Records in early April 2020.

STUDENTS: Before you elect pass/fail for your Honors class, consider the following:

1. Meeting Program Requirements
 - A C or better in HON 111 plus a Pass (P) in HON 112 will meet the ENG 101 requirement.
 - ENG 101 credit will not be awarded with an LP or a C- or lower in HON 112.
 - A grade of P in HON 112 or 212 will count towards Honors and Gen Ed requirements. A grade of LP will not count towards either requirement.
2. Work with your professor/preceptor to understand what it would take to achieve the grade you were hoping for.
 - What grade do you currently have in the course?
 - How many assignments/assessments are still to come?
 - What is your realistic expectation for your performance on those items?
3. Are you currently working to raise your GPA?
 - Pass/Fail grades will not positively or negatively affect your GPA. If you expect to do well in a course, it would be more beneficial to take the letter grade vs a pass.
 - Do you have a scholarship that requires a specific GPA to renew or keep the award?
 - Use the GPA Calculators on our website here:
<https://honors.umaine.edu/current-students/calc/>
4. Are you planning to continue on after graduation to grad school, professional school, or a competitive grant program (ex. Fulbright)?
 - Some programs beyond UMaine undergrad will not accept pass-fail credits towards acceptance. Check with your prospective program to ask about their requirements.
5. Check in with your faculty advisor, Associate Dean Melissa Ladenheim, or Dean François Amar to review your decision.

From the UMaine Covid-19 FAQ website: Extension of timelines — Spring 2020

These are extraordinary times for our faculty, staff, and students. As we work to transition to new course delivery formats, living conditions, and health uncertainties, the faculty and staff intend to extend the greatest possible consideration for students. The purpose of extending the timeline to choose a Pass/Fail grade is to provide a choice for completing the term that also maintains academic integrity. Some students may be improving a GPA and need a grade while others are concerned with keeping pace while circumstances or living conditions impede studying or learning. Likewise, faculty members may be concerned about completing course objectives so that students are prepared for the next set of courses in a sequence, the integrity of exams, or the impact of new delivery modalities on learning. Our goal is to offer a student-centric option, guided by faculty and advisors. (Faculty Senate, 3/17/2020) The protocol:

1. The University of Maine will extend the time frame for undergraduate students to select a pass/fail option in each undergraduate course for this term. Students could then elect to take a pass/fail grade between April 10 and May 1, 2020, for the spring semester. **The procedure to select a pass/fail option will be completion of an online form available in early April 2020.**
2. Pass/Fail grades, should they be chosen by the student, will follow [the definitions in the Faculty Handbook](#), [For courses on the pass/fail grading option](#):
 - P, Pass, normally represents a C- or above. Credit is earned, but the grade point average (GPA) is not affected. Note: for spring 2020 only, a P will count as a C or above.
 - LP, Low Pass, is a D+, D, or D-. Credit is earned, but the GPA is not affected
 - F*, Failed, means that no credit is earned and the GPA is not affected.
3. With this protocol, the University of Maine will allow students to take multiple courses as pass/fail. This option will be treated as a graded course for the purpose of degree completion and will be coded by student records to allow these courses to meet requirements within allowable limits (i.e. a P may be required as opposed to an LP).
4. Pass/fail courses will not count in the GPA. A grade of “P” will not meet a C+ or higher prerequisite requirement. A grade of P, for spring 2020, will be counted as a C rather than a C-.
5. Once the student has chosen a pass/fail option for a course, there is no opt-out from that point – the course will be pass/fail for that student.
6. Please note: in some majors, a “P” will not satisfy licensure or accreditation requirements. The transfer of a P or LP grade to another academic institution will depend on that institution’s transfer policies. If there are questions, please contact a faculty member, advisor, department chair, associate dean, or dean as we are all here to assist in making this choice.
7. Faculty members will communicate with students to ensure that each is aware of the opportunity to elect a pass/fail grade from April 10 to May 1, 2020.