Temporary Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) Grade Option for Spring Semester 2020
College of Public Health
(Version 2_Revised 04/03/20)

In view of the current circumstances and disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result of The Ohio State University Senate Resolution passed on March 26, 2020, the College of Public Health is extending to public health students the option to select a Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) grade as an alternative to a letter (i.e., A, B,…) grade for any of its undergraduate and graduate courses. This is a temporary change in grading policy and practice in effect for spring semester 2020.

The following are some specific details regarding this temporary policy and practice:

- PA/NP grade option applies to all College of Public Health courses and programs (i.e., minors, certificates, degrees, degree specializations). This is not a course director/faculty decision or program decision whether to permit the PA/NP option; it is a student’s choice.

- PA/NP grade option is completely voluntary for each student to decide. However, if a student wants to select the PA/NP option for any course, they must declare by April 17, 2020. If a student does not declare the PA/NP option, they will receive a letter grade. Undergraduate students use this link: https://go.osu.edu/PA-NPform to request the PA/NP option. Graduate students email their faculty advisor (with the exception of MHA students and PEP students who should email Helene Cweren (MHA) or Dawnne Wise (PEP) and request the PA/NP option. After the advisor (or designated staff member) approve, they will notify OAPSS of this approval and the Graduate School will then be notified to update the student record.

- The criterion to earn a Pass (PA) grade for a course(s) follows:
  - Undergraduate Courses: PA grade is equivalent to letter grade D or better
  - Graduate Courses: PA grade is equivalent to letter grade C- or better

- PA/NP grades do not affect either an increase or a decrease in a student’s term or cumulative grade point average (GPA), but a PA grade does count toward earned credits.

- There is no stigma attached with deciding to select a PA/NP grade option for a course(s). However, there are some related considerations, as follows:
  - If you want or need to raise your GPA, the PA grade will not be factored into the GPA. You need to earn a letter grade to affect GPA.
  - Students who are already performing well in a course, or feel comfortable in online learning, can retain the letter grade option to benefit from the positive GPA impact it could have at the end of the term.
  - The University’s advising COVID-19 page provides some perspectives for students to consider when deciding whether to choose to the PA/NP grading option. The University also created an FAQ regarding PA/NP here.