



Temporary Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) Grade Option for Autumn Semester 2020
College of Public Health
September 29, 2020

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 September 17, 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 undergraduate students for any elective or General Education (GE) course. This is a temporary change in grading policy and practice in effect for autumn semester 2020.

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

- PA/NP grade option applies to all electives and General Education (GE) courses. 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. The deadline to request Pass/No Pass grading is Nov. 20, 2020, for semester-long or second session courses. A form will be developed shortly. Requests for first session courses are due Oct. 2, 2020 and can be requested [here](#).
- Courses taken PA/NP during autumn 2020 semester will count toward the limit of 20 credit hours (exclusive of credit hours earned under the Pass/No Pass option in spring 2020) that each student may take Pass/No Pass during their undergraduate career.
- Pass/No Pass is not appropriate in all cases, and advisors will be able to provide guidance for students who may need to earn certain grades to maintain scholarships or to successfully apply for graduate or professional school.
- A grade of D or better will be marked as "Pass"; grades below D are marked as "No Pass."
- Pass/No Pass classes provide credits toward graduation, but they do not factor into a student's grade-point average.
- 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 an elective or GE course(s). However, there are some related considerations, as follows:
 - Many students in the spring who opted for PA/NP would have earned As or Bs. Once selected, the PA/NP option cannot be reversed. We recommend that you do not make a decision now but instead wait until you have a better sense of your academic performance in the classes you are currently taking
 - 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.