

## **Spring, 2020 Pass/Fail Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How should students decide whether to choose one or more P grades?**

The Undergraduate Advising Center and departmental advisors are available to assist students with any concerns or questions.

Students should discuss the implications/consequences of taking pass/fail grades with their departmental advisor or with an advisor from the Undergraduate Academic Advising Center.

Students may use the [undergraduate GPA calculator](#) or [graduate GPA calculator](#) to see if choosing letter grades rather than P grades improves their overall GPA. Students should be aware of any minimum grade prerequisites for major courses before making their choice.

A graduate student should not convert a course from a letter grade to a P grade without first consulting with their graduate program director and/or graduate program advisor.

Letter grades cannot be converted to P grades for any courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the PhD in Clinical Psychology.

### **Can faculty members choose to make a class P/F?**

Only students will be able to decide if they will receive a P/F grade. Faculty should not award pass grades unless the course was previously designated as P/F, or unless an individual student had previously elected to take the course P/F under the terms of the normal grading policies. Faculty must submit letter grades. There should not be any discussion or negotiation between a faculty member and student for a course letter grade or P/F ahead of time. The choice is the student's to make after they see their grades.

### **Can a student request a P grade before the posting of evaluative grades?**

No. Students must wait until the letter grade is posted before making the decision for a final grade of P or letter grade.

## **What is the process if a student wants to select a P in any course at the end of the semester?**

The student will access their WebAdvisor account and view their final grades. Then, using a drop-down menu, students will opt to assign a P grade to as many courses as they wish. Students do not need to choose all P grades or all letter grades; i.e., students can have a mixture of letter grades and P grades. The Registrar will send out specific instructions as we get closer to the end of term. This functionality will be available after the last day of classes. Students will be able to choose a P grade or a letter grade up to May 11. After May 11 the choice of a P grade or a letter grade will be used to calculate the cumulative GPA.

## **What should students consider before opting to replace a letter grade with a P grade?**

*Students considering transferring to another institution or post-graduate study:* Those considering graduate school, law school, medical school, certifications, and those considering transfers should be aware that institutions will treat P/F grades differently. Some institutions will exercise some flexibility for grades earned in the spring, 2020 semester. Others will not. Specific programs will also treat P/F grades differently. In addition, students with strong records may well benefit in consideration for graduate fellowships, employment, or other opportunities if they can show their grades.

*Students with academic standing issues:* Students on probation should choose letter grades if they are doing well to boost their overall GPA and help meet the conditions of their probation. If a student is doing poorly, then that student should consider pass grades. The Academic Standing Committee will use the **final** grade choice of the student, whether that be evaluative grades or P/F grades, to determine any actions if needed.

*Students interested in making the Dean's List:* To determine eligibility for the Dean's List for the spring, 2020 semester, the University will use the actual letter grades recorded by faculty to meet the grade point average requirement of 3.50 or above. As stated in the Academic Catalog, students must have a grade point average of 3.5, receive no grade of "D," "F," or "I," and have earned a minimum of 12 semester-hour credits.

*Honors Program Students / Students Completing Honors in the Major:* The Suffolk University Honors Program reserves the right to consider letter grades when making decisions that affect current and potential honors students. Letter grades may be considered in cases such as (but not limited to) probations, probation extensions, and rising sophomore invitations. The Honors Program recognizes that this term's extraordinary circumstances mean that students may not be able to perform at their

usual levels because of a variety of reasons outside their control, and will factor this consideration into evaluation of student records when making any decisions.

Note: For students pursuing honors in the major, individual academic departments may elect to consider letter grades when deciding whether students have met internal standards for their respective program.

*Students completing certificates:*

- *Paralegal Certificate:* ABA will accept P grades for the Paralegal Certificate.
- *Radiation Therapy:* JRCERT support pass/fail option for radiation therapy students this semester.
- *Math with actuarial concentration:* A Suffolk student in the Math major/minor with actuarial concentration may take courses for which P/F grades may be of concern. In particular, an actuary-to-be has to take (get credit for) a number of VEE (validation by education experience) courses. At Suffolk all such courses are in Economics (e.g. Econ101 and Econ102) or SBS. However, it appears that, according to this FAQ from the society of actuaries (<https://www.soa.org/education/exam-reg/resources/edu-vee-approval-faq/>), it is possible to get VEE credit for a course with a P/F grade.

*INTO-Suffolk students:*

Undergraduate

Letter grades will be made available and will determine progression. Undergraduate students must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA based upon letter grade calculations to progress out of the pathway.

Graduate

College of Arts and Sciences graduate students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA based on letter grade calculations to progress out of the pathway.

Sawyer Business School graduate students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA based upon letter grade calculations and a minimum of a B grade in each course.

All undergraduate and graduate pathway students should consult with Adina Goodman [agoodman@suffolk.edu](mailto:agoodman@suffolk.edu) for academic advising before changing any grades to P.

**How will eligibility for scholarships be determined if a student chooses P grades?**

The evaluation of a student's satisfactory academic progress will use the official cumulative GPA (including Pass grades if the student opts for these grades) and completion rate. Eligibility for merit scholarships will also be based on the official cumulative GPA.

**How will the retake policy be applied if a student chooses a P grade and then retakes the course?**

Students may choose to use the P grade from spring 2020 or the letter grade.

**If a student gets an Incomplete in a course during spring 2020, can they choose a P grade once they finish the incomplete work?**

Yes.

**Has the deadline for SP19 INC grades converting to F\* grades been extended?**

Yes, to October 30. This excludes students who are candidates for a May, 2020 degree.

**Can a student who took an incomplete in SP19 choose a P grade rather than a letter grade?**

No, the choice of a P grade is for spring 2020 classes only, unless the student chose a P grade when registering for the class, or if the class was previously designated as P/F.

**Can students petition to change their grade from a P grade to a letter grade, or change their grade from a letter grade to a P grade after the May 11 deadline?**

Yes, students should petition the assistant dean in the academic dean's office of their respective school. Sawyer Business School graduate students should petition the dean of graduate programs.