

FSCUE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING
PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE PASS/NO PASS OPTION
March 31, 2011

Some reasons for raising the question of P/NP:

- Philosophy
 - Is the purpose of the P/NP option to hide the grades of a poor performance or to encourage students to take academic risks?
- Clarity
 - For most of our rules, we treat students who were enrolled in 12 credit-hours at the start of the semester as full-time students, but for this policy we delete course withdrawals.
 - Students may not use P/NP for courses specifically required of them, but may use it for other courses in the major for which there are options. (If students may take MATH 223 or 227, is 227 really an option for a student doing poorly in 223?)
 - Students are often unaware that they cannot use P/NP for summer courses, or if they are part-time or on probation.
- Equity
 - By the time P/NP must be chosen, some students already know their final grades in some courses.
 - There is the possibility of manipulating major selection in order to use the P/NP option and students who have not declared a major have no specific courses required.
 - Students are told that the decision to use P/NP is irrevocable, yet we regularly reveal the letter-grade when that facilitates graduation.
- Logistics
 - The late date of opting for P/NP provides little time for review if we want students to know whether their requests were not approved before the start of exams.

Proposal:

Undergraduate students (degree candidates and transient students enrolled at the undergraduate level) may elect to take one course each fall and spring semester on a P/NP grading basis, provided they remain enrolled in at least 3 credit-hours of courses for regular evaluative grades. Courses that are graded on a P/NP basis do not preclude a student's use of the P/NP option for another course that semester. The P/NP option may not be used for courses being repeated, and is not available during the summer session or to undergraduate degree candidates enrolled at the graduate or professions levels through the IGS program or Senior-Year in Professional Studies. All courses to be counted toward major, minor, and SAGES/general education/core requirements must be taken for a letter-grade.

Students must opt for the P/NP option by the relevant course withdrawal deadline for that semester (currently the 11th Friday of the semester for upperclass students, including new transfer students; and the last day of classes for first-year students). A decision to use the P/NP option is irrevocable unless the student needs that course to complete requirements for a major or minor declared in a subsequent semester; in that case, at the student's request, the Office of Undergraduate Studies will reveal the grade on the transcript at the start of the student's final semester or summer session at CWRU.

PASS/NO PASS***Current Policy***

Courses elected on a Pass/No Pass basis and completed with a grade of D or higher will be entered with the grade P on the student's transcript. Courses taken Pass/No Pass for which a grade of F is earned will have NP entered on the transcript. Courses completed with a letter grade P under this option will be counted for credit toward the baccalaureate. Courses completed with the grades P and NP are not included in computing the grade point average. The Pass/No Pass option is subject to the following regulations:

1. The Pass/No Pass Option is available only during regular fall and spring semesters and only to students who are in good academic standing and who are currently enrolled in 12 or more hours after course withdrawals for that semester.
2. Students may submit an on-line Pass/No Pass Option form at any time in the fall or spring semester after the end of the drop/add period and before 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes. Once the Pass/No Pass Option form is submitted, it may not be retracted or changed.
3. The Pass/No Pass Option can be exercised for only one course during any semester. Courses which are graded on a Pass/No Pass basis (e.g. PHED 055A) do not preclude the student's use of the Pass/No Pass Option in another course taken that same term.
4. The Pass/No Pass Option cannot be used for courses being taken to satisfy Engineering Core or General Education requirements or for courses taken to satisfy major or minor requirements.
5. The Pass/No Pass Option cannot be used for courses that are being repeated.
6. Instructors are not notified of a student's use of this option. They are required to submit evaluative grades for all students and these are converted to Pass/No Pass in the Registrar's Office. The meaning of the P and NP will be noted on the transcript.
7. Once a course is completed under the Pass/No Pass Option, the student CANNOT reverse the Pass/No Pass grade in order to reveal and have posted the actual letter grade earned, or use the course for a purpose for which the use of a Pass/No Pass is prohibited.

Students majoring in any Weatherhead School of Management major may not use the P/NP option for any Weatherhead School of Management courses, either required or elective. (ACCT, BAFI, BLAW, ENTP, LHRP, MGMT, MIDS, MKMR, OPMT, ORBH, OPRE, PLCY).