Pass/No-Pass Grading Policy
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Pass/No-Pass grade?

The mark of Pass "P" earns a student credit for their enrolled course (in most cases, 5 credits). A No Pass "NP" mark will not earn a student the 5 credits for the course. Either mark will not work for, or against a student's cumulative grade point average.

What does this mean for seniors this year?

Senior students anticipated to graduate this Spring remain on track to do so. Students must still fulfill graduation requirements by earning their school's credit requirements and completing their Senior Project. Seniors who are on track for graduation, who are earning Passing grades for the semester, and complete their Senior Project requirements, are on track to graduate this June. (UPDATED 4/30/20: The Senior Project requirement has largely been waived for the 2019-20 school year. Some sites have course credit attached to the project. If students are in need of the credits, the project must be completed; otherwise, the project is optional.)

What effect does this have on my GPA?

None. P/NP marks on the transcript do not factor into the GPA calculation. A "Pass" mark will earn course credit towards graduation. A "No Pass" mark will not. By earning passing marks, you will stay on track to graduate. Neither mark will either positively or negatively impact student GPAs. The only exception would be a student currently repeating a course for grade improvement (i.e. they took the course and got a D previously; the D would be replaced with a P on their transcript, thus improving their GPA).

How does this affect college eligibility?

Universities are not favoring one grading system over another and are holding students harmless at this time. They know how many grade points are available at each school, and weight student GPAs accordingly. The university systems have announced they will accept Pass/No Pass grades in lieu of letter grades for all courses, including A–G courses, completed in winter/spring/summer 2020 for all students. Grades of Pass/No Pass will not affect the UC or CSU calculations of GPA. Many high schools across the country are implementing a P/NP grading system. Colleges have stated that students who receive P/NP grades this spring will NOT be penalized in the college admission process. Guidance for students and families: [University of California](#) and [California State University](#)

__From UC:__ "UC is not suspending minimum grade requirements, but rather allowing students whose schools have moved to Pass/No Pass grading systems this term to continue to earn the credit they need to be eligible for UC. Students will still need to achieve the minimum GPA of 3.0 (3.4 for nonresidents) with classes for which they are able to earn letter grade credit. High school A-G courses completed with a letter grade must be passed with a C- or better grade." A Pass grade will also meet course validation requirements in math and LOTE (language other than English).

From UC: *"A Pass (CR) grade in a higher level math or LOTE course earned in spring/summer 2020 will validate D/F grades in lower level math or LOTE courses. The Pass (CR) grade will also validate the omission of lower levels of math (excluding Geometry) or LOTE. Math and LOTE are the only A-G subjects for which UC allows validation."*

How does this affect my competitiveness for college entrance?

Colleges know how many grade points are available at each school, and weight student GPAs accordingly. Each district high school shares a school profile with colleges. In 2020 and beyond, the school profiles will reflect the change in our grading policy for this semester. The temporary suspension of the letter grade requirement for A-G courses applies to all A-G coursework completed in spring and summer 2020, including coursework completed by students currently in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. The Pass grade in spring and summer 2020 will continue to meet A-G requirements for any student currently enrolled in high school during the 2019-20 academic year.

From UC: *"Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades will meet A-G subject requirements but will not be calculated in the GPA. UC will continue to calculate the GPA for admission purposes using all A-G courses passed with letter grades in grades 10 and 11, including summer terms following grades 9, 10 and 11. Extra points in honors-level coursework will continue to be capped at 8 semesters of honors points in A-G courses completed with letter grades of A, B and C in grades 10 and 11."*

How will the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems view my Honors/AP courses?

From UC: *"Pass grades will not be included in the GPA calculation, nor will they receive an extra point in the GPA if they are approved honors or AP courses. However, UC-approved honors courses, including AP, will be included in the honors course tallies, ensuring students are considered in comprehensive review as taking a challenging curriculum."*

How does this affect my NCAA eligibility?

From the NCAA Eligibility Center: *"The NCAA Eligibility Center has received a number of inquiries regarding potential adjustments to the initial eligibility certification process as a result of closures, cancellations and changes due to COVID-19. We are working closely with our member institutions and making progress toward national solutions to the issues raised for both Divisions I and II. We look forward to communicating the details of these adjustments in the coming weeks upon complete review through our governance processes. For information on COVID-19, please visit ncaa.org/COVID-19 and continue to monitor for more information from the Eligibility Center at on www.ncaa.com/EC_COVID."*

Why didn't NJUHSD just issue letter grades?

Distance Learning will never replace face to face instruction and inherently presents issues of equitability. Families continue to face adversity surrounding reliable internet access, household work schedules, employment and food insecurities, and other COVID-19 lifestyle impacts. Due to implications with the services provided to students of special populations, student grade point

averages, and technology connectivity, NJUHSD has determined that the most equitable grading practice universally, is the practice of Pass/No Pass grades. This temporary modification addresses the innate challenges of distance learning, alleviates academic pressure on students, and maintains our commitment to cover and deliver instruction so that each child is academically prepared for next school year.

General Guidance for Students

It is imperative that students complete the coursework assigned to them during the remaining weeks in the school year. Assignments must be submitted and meet achievement standards to earn a Pass "P" for the school year. It is possible for a student who may have earned an F in the initial weeks of this semester to earn a passing grade, depending on individual situations. Students should consult their teacher to be considered for these opportunities. Some students may view the GPA freeze as an opportunity to slack off for the final weeks of this 4th quarter; however, completion of courses is a prerequisite for receiving a "P" on their transcripts. Teachers may assign "required" coursework, which must be completed in order to earn a passing grade for the course. In many instances, colleges and potential employees are interested in students who demonstrate a strong work ethic and rely on internal motivators for success. The emphasis on completing high quality work during these times is a sure way to demonstrate that competency and skill.

Additional resources related to grading practices during COVID-19 pandemic

CA Dept of Education (CDE) FAQs:
https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/gradegraduationfaq.asp

University of California (UC) FAQs:
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/response-covid-19.html

CollegeWise Document - Credit/No Credit (a.k.a. Pass/Fail) in High School Coursework - Understanding Its Impact on Admissions in the Time of COVID-19 (UPDATED 4/30/20)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Uslzd-JmgGEOerIJ3ulU_ZsQqpCSyU7E/view?usp=sharing