

Fall 2020: CED Undergraduate Grading Option Policy

sent November 14, 2020

Dear CED Undergraduate Students,

This email is intended to address widespread student concern about grading for the Fall 2020 semester. You may have learned that colleges within UC Berkeley have been considering changes to the P/NP grade option for undergraduates during the Fall 2020. This letter outlines the CED's approach to these changes, and how we will process requests from CED students.

Background

The CED's small size permits a policy that will more directly engage with the needs and experiences of our students, and allow us to suggest appropriate resources if needed. Our intention is to provide our students with the flexibility and support needed to navigate the many challenges of online learning, while also ensuring that we gain an understanding of the CED student experience during these difficult times. The latter will help CED to better address student concerns now and for the remainder of the academic year. We believe that the policy changes and processes for the Fall 2020 will enable us to accomplish this to the best of our ability.

Deadline to change grading options via CalCentral

- **December 3, 2020 11:59PM** is the deadline to change grading options for Fall 2020 courses.
- Retroactive changes to grading options will not be considered
- CED students will be able to change grading options on Cal Central
- Students who change a college, major, or minor requirement to P/NP will be asked to submit a request form to the CED Undergraduate Advising Office.

Satisfying College, Major, and Minor requirements with P grade

Students who change a college, major, or minor requirement to P/NP will be asked to submit a request to the CED Undergraduate Advising Office. Requests for the P/NP option that describe the students' welfare will likely be approved. **The CED will remain flexible and compassionate when approving requests.** This process will help CED ensure we are able to connect with individual students if needed. The information will also help CED gather data to better address student concerns now and for the remainder of the academic year.

- The following courses will be eligible for consideration under this policy:
 - Courses completed in the Fall 2020 for CED college, major, and minor requirements.
 - Courses completed in the Fall 2020 as prerequisites for entry into all CED majors can be satisfied with a grade of P upon request.

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- Note: All other requirements for selection to a CED major (such as GPA and essay) remain the same.
- This does not apply to the UC-wide Entry Level Writing requirement: College Writing R1A must be taken for a letter grade and completed with a C or better to satisfy the requirement.
- The form to submit requests is open: tinyurl.com/CED-Request-Grading-Option
- Deadline to submit the request is **December 3rd, 2020 11:59PM**.
- We anticipate reply will be provided within 3-5 business days

Important Related Information

- The issuing of a P grade signifies that the student has passed the class at minimum C- level work. Bear in mind that the D grade ('barely passing') is, in some cases, sufficient to fulfill a requirement; however, under P/NP it will result in an NP, which is not sufficient to fulfill any requirements.
- P grades may comprise no more than **one third** of the total required units completed at UC Berkeley toward the 120 overall minimum unit requirement.
- Regulations on course repetition will not be modified for Fall 2020.
- For all students considering a change to P/NP for one or more courses, we strongly recommend you consult with your instructor to discuss possible accommodations.
- We also recommend that students consult their prospective graduate schools, professional schools, and other post-bac opportunities to determine their grading requirements on prerequisite courses. Students will not be allowed to make further changes to their schedule after the December 3 deadline.
- This policy applies to Fall 2020. It will be reviewed by the Undergraduate Affairs Committee in the Spring semester of 2021 and its applicability extended as needed.

If you have questions please visit our [Weekly CED Advising Schedule](#) for information on how to connect with a CED academic advisor.

Sincerely,

C. Greig Crysler
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
College of Environmental Design

