

Spring 2021: CED Undergraduate Grading Option Policy

sent February 5, 2021

Dear CED Undergraduate Students,

The CED Undergraduate Affairs Committee has reviewed and approved changes to grading option policy and deadlines for the Spring semester of 2021. Please carefully review the Spring 2021 policy and take note of pertinent deadlines.

We highly encourage you to speak with your instructors as well as your CED advisors to receive advice before taking a major or minor requirement for a P/NP grade. Through this individualized advising, we hope that you will make informed decisions in the context of your overall academic record and their future education goals.

The Fall 2020 was significantly challenging for students. The top factors impacting the need for CED students to complete a requirement on a P/NP basis were related to challenges with remote learning as well as personal and family health issues. There are current efforts underway to help mitigate some of the issues reported by CED students, such as expanding our Fee Waiver program for the CED computer lab. We will continue to work to find and fund additional efforts.

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

Spring 2021 Grading Option Policy and Deadlines

Satisfying College, Major, and Minor requirements with P grade

- **College requirements:** Reading and Composition, Seven Course Breadth Requirement, and Lower Division Environmental Design normally satisfied with letter grades may be **satisfied with a pass (P) grade** in a course completed during the Spring 2021.
 - Note: This does not include the systemwide Entry Level Writing requirement. College Writing R1A must be taken for a letter grade and completed with a C or better to fulfill the Entry Level Writing requirement.
- **Major & Minor Requirements:** Requirements within all CED majors and minors may be **satisfied with a pass (P) grade** in a course completed during the Spring 2021.
- **Prerequisites to Majors:** Prerequisites for entry into all CED majors may be **satisfied with a pass (P) grade** in a course completed during the Spring 2021.
- All other requirements for selection to a CED major (such as GPA and essay) remain the same.
- CED students may change their grading option for Spring 2021 courses via CalCentral until **11:59PM on Thursday, April 29, 2021**. Simultaneous degree students must adhere to the stricter deadline when college deadlines differ.
- Students who opt to change their grading option to P/NP **will not** be required to submit a form to CED Advising for approval.

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- Students are encouraged to talk with their instructors as well as their major's faculty and staff advisors to receive advice before taking a major or minor requirement for a P/NP grade. Through this individualized advising, we hope that students will make informed decisions in the context of their overall academic record and their future education goals. Taking certain courses as P/NP could have negative impacts on admission to graduate and professional schools, or other unexpected consequences.
- 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.

Important Deadlines

Change of Grading Option Deadline

- CED students may change their grading option for Spring 2021 courses via CalCentral until **11:59PM on Thursday, April 29, 2021**.
 - Simultaneous degree students must adhere to the stricter deadline when college deadlines differ.
- Changes of Grading Options after the deadline ***will not be considered***

Add/Drop Course Deadline

- **February 10, 2021:** Deadline for undergraduates to add/drop classes or swap/change units for courses.
- A schedule change after the deadline requires an exception to deadlines by the Associate Dean; therefore, requests for late changes are considered only in the case of extenuating circumstances. Please see [Late/Retroactive Petition to Change to Class Schedule](#) on CED advising website for more information.
- Simultaneous degree students must adhere to the stricter deadline when college deadlines differ.

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. This includes courses taken in the Fall Program for Freshmen, the UC Education Abroad Program, or the UC Berkeley Washington Program.
- 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.
- Regulations on course repetition will not be modified for Spring 2021.

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- At graduation, students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all upper division major coursework.
- Given the changes to grading policies since Spring 2020 through Spring 2021, the terms for Academic Probation (AP) have been modified. Please review the “[ACADEMIC PROBATION AND DISMISSAL](#)” information on the CED undergraduate advising website.
- Students found responsible for academic misconduct may not change the grading option or drop the course related to the violation. If a student completes a late drop or grade change for a course and is later found responsible of a violation within that course, the course will be reinstated with the grading option selected on the date of the allegation.

Sincerely,

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

