

COVID-19 and Your Classes – FAQs and Resources for students in the School of Design + Construction

Q: My program requirements do not allow taking a course on P/F basis. What do I do?

A: For Spring 2020 semester, all SDC programs will allow students take courses on a pass/fail basis. A grade of "P" earned in Spring 2020 will satisfy any program requirement where a "C minimum" is specified. A grade of "PP" will not satisfy this requirement since it indicates the grade earned did not meet the "C minimum" requirement.

Q. Are any courses excluded from the P/F option?

A. Graduate level (500) courses cannot be taken on a P/F option.

Q. Do you recommend that I do this?

A. The purpose of the P/F option is to provide you with more ease of mind in learning during the spring term given the rapid and unexpected move to online delivery versus face-to-face. Based on the Registrar's deadline of June 1st, you will have the unprecedented opportunity to wait until after grades post to decide if P/F is the right option on a course-by-course basis. P/F will not impact scholarship decisions or existing awards for SDC scholarships.

Q. Will this affect the certification timeline or process?

Decisions regarding certification of SDC programs (Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Design and Construction Management) and matriculation from 1st year to 2nd year will be made after the deadline for opting in to P/F (June 1, 2020). This gives you time to decide on P/F well after grades are posted. Note, a grade of "P" earned in Spring 2020 will satisfy any certification requirement where a "C minimum" is specified. A grade of "PP" will not satisfy this requirement since it indicates the grade earned did not meet the "C minimum" requirement.

Q. How will this impact certification (matriculation from 1st year to 2nd year in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Design, and Construction Management)?

A. Certification decisions will be based on cumulative GPA and courses required for certification. The options of P and PP credits will be counted towards total credits and completion of the course will be noted; however, the grade or grade points will not be counted in the semester GPA or the cumulative GPA. Therefore, decisions regarding student matriculating to 2nd year certification will include student performance in classes in which they have received a letter grade (A-F) and in academic performance in prior semesters. Use this calculator to figure out your GPA: <https://cougarsuccess.wsu.edu/gpa-calc/>. Several scenarios have been included below as examples.

Q. How does a P/F impact my GPA and credit hours?

A. A Pass Grade gives credit for the course but does not impact the GPA. There are no quality points associated with the Pass grade. The hours associated with the Pass Grade in the course will count towards the hours required for the student's degree.

Q. Why wouldn't a student want to choose P/F for every course?

In this difficult time, it is important to take time for oneself and stay mentally healthy. Students should not stress over getting perfect grades in every class. WSU implemented the P/F option in order to compensate for the additional stressors and issues that may arise from the current pandemic. But some students may also see P/F grading as an easier option that allows them to complete all of their classes with little effort and without having to worry about B grades or C grades affecting their GPA. Students are encouraged to take advantage of P/F grading in a way that is most helpful, not just now, but later as well. For example, not only are the classes taken freshman and sophomore year building important skills for later classes, but freshman year is one of the best times to boost one's GPA in preparation of harder classes taken in their junior or senior year. Ultimately, it is up to every individual student to decide how they want to navigate this situation, but make sure you are choosing P/F for the right reasons.

SCENARIO 1: Student receives the following grades in pre-requisite courses required for ARCH, ID, or LND ARCH major. Student receives a C+ in SDC 140 and chooses to keep the grade rather than opting P/F. The semester GPA is a 3.15.

| | | |
|--------------|----|---|
| SDC 100 | A | 3 |
| SDC 140 | C+ | 3 |
| ENGL 101 | B+ | 3 |
| FINE ART 101 | B | 3 |

SCENARIO 2: Student receives the following grades in pre-requisite courses required for ARCH, ID, or LND ARCH major. Student receives a C+ in SDC 140 and instead of keeping the grade chooses to opt into P/F. The semester GPA is a 3.43.

| | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| SDC 100 | A | 3 |
| SDC 140 | S/P | 3 |
| ENGL 101 | B+ | 3 |
| FINE ART 101 | B | 3 |

SCENARIO 3: Student receives the following grades in pre-requisite courses required for CSTM major. Student receives a C in MATH 171 and chooses to keep the grade rather than opting P/F. The semester GPA is a **2.85**.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| CST M 102 | A | 2 |
| MATH 171 | C | 4 |
| ECON 102 | B | 3 |
| SOE 101 | B | 4 |

SCENARIO 4: Student receives the following grades in pre-requisite courses required for CSTM major. Student receives a C in MATH 171 and instead of keeping the grade chooses to opt into P/F. The semester GPA is a **3.22**.

| | | |
|-----------|-----|---|
| CST M 102 | A | 2 |
| MATH 171 | S/P | 4 |
| ECON 102 | B | 3 |
| SOE 101 | B | 4 |

SCENARIO 5: Student receives the following grades in pre-requisite courses required for CSTM major. Student keeps all letter grades and the semester GPA is **3.37**. All grades and grade points count towards cumulative GPA.

| | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| CST M 102 | A | 2 |
| MATH 171 | A- | 4 |
| ECON 102 | B | 3 |
| SOE 101 | B | 4 |

SCENARIO 6: Student receives the following grades in pre-requisite courses required for CSTM major. Student keeps A and A- letter grade and choose P/F for courses where final grade is a B. The semester GPA is **3.80**; however, only 6 of the 13 credits are factored towards the cumulative GPA as remember, “P” grades have no impact on the GPA.

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|-----------|-----|---|
| CST M 102 | A | 2 |
| MATH 171 | A- | 4 |
| ECON 102 | S/P | 3 |
| SOE 101 | S/P | 4 |

Q. How does repeat processing work for P, PP, F grades?

- P grade is not repeatable since it is equivalent to a C or higher grade
- PP grade is repeatable since it is equivalent to a C-, D, or D+ grade
- F is repeatable.

Q. Does the expanded P/F option impact the limit of no more than 6 course can be taken P/F for graduation requirements (Academic Regulation 50)?

A. There is no impact. The P/F courses taken for Spring 2020 will not count towards the 6 course limit.

Q. How does this impact future graduate school application?

A. If you are aiming to attend graduate school at WSU, programs will acknowledge the spring 2020 semester as an anomaly. If you are hoping to attend a graduate program somewhere else in the country or in the world, please know that most universities are in the same situation and many have gone to pass/fail. Therefore, there will likely be a generation of graduate applications with a pass/fail spring 2020 COVID-19 that will be recognized by admissions boards at universities but each may choose to evaluate these differently.

Main FAQ website <https://vcea.wsu.edu/student-success/distance-learning-faqs/>

Additional Resources

- Letter from the Provost: <https://wsu.edu/covid-19/2020/03/30/undergraduate-pass-fail-option-spring-2020/>
- Registrar’s Office: <https://registrar.wsu.edu/pass-fail/>
- Drop-in to the Voiland College Student Support Zoom Room: wsu.zoom.us/j/984646732.
Hours: M-F, 9 am to 2 pm.