

## ***Academic Code of the Graduate School – Addendum***

Due to the unusual circumstances arising in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following changes are in effect for Spring Semester 2020. This follows the policy addendum adopted for undergraduate courses, with a change to the translation of letter grades to pass/nc options, to line up with existing code policies. At the UG level, A-D is passing, but a 2.0 gpa is required for good standing. Their adopted policy assigns pass to A-D; nc to F. At the GR level, A-C is passing, but a 3.0 is required for continuation in a graduate degree program.

### **Spring 2020 Graduate Grading Option**

#### **Rationale for Proposed Option**

Circumstances surrounding the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted the instructional environment for both students and faculty. In some cases, the tools and methods for evaluating student learning that were available at the beginning of the semester may no longer be available to the faculty member for the second half of the semester. Necessary changes in both instructional modalities and in approaches to student evaluation will be unsettling to many students. A grading option for spring 2020 is proposed that is hoped to relieve some student anxiety and to promote persistence in courses that the student might otherwise drop.

#### **A P/NC Option**

The current grading options will be modified to include a P/NC option. The NC grade is a new, Spring Semester 2020 only, grade at Notre Dame. Neither the P nor the NC will be used in the computation of a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Grades of A through C will be converted to a P (Pass) grade. The grades of C-, D, and F will be converted to a NC (No Credit) grade.

Instructors are required to submit grades by May 11, 2020. Graduate students will be able to view all standard letter course grades of A through F on May 12, 2020. From May 12 through May 29, 2020, graduate students may file with the dean of the Graduate School (or dean's designee) a request to switch any Spring 2020 course grade from A through F to P/NC, with the exception of courses that concluded prior to March 13, 2020.

The request will be made in the insideND portal. The Office of the Registrar will provide instructions for the electronic P/NC election later this semester. Please note that the default grade mode for courses currently utilizing the standard A through F letter grade format remains in place. Only those students who affirm in insideND a switch to P/NC between May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup> will be able to have this grade mode adjusted.

#### **Summary of Proposed Addition of P/NC Grading Option for Spring 2020**

- C-, D, and F grades are replaced with the NC (no credit) grade, which is not used in GPA computation
- P/NC option is available to all graduate students
- Students may elect P/NC option after they see Spring 2020 grades on May 12, 2020
- Any standard letter grade courses of A through F can be switched to P/NC by student request and decanal approval
- P/NC option may be used for any courses, including program required courses

The motivation for the P/NC option is to encourage persistence in courses required for degree completion that students are taking under extraordinary circumstances.

## Existing Academic Code of the Graduate School Provisions Directly Related to Proposal:

### 4.3 Grades

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Listed below are graduate grades and the corresponding number of quality points per credit hour. It is the expectation of the Graduate School that all courses taken at the graduate level will be graded by the level of the course, not by the status of the enrolled student.

A	4.000
A-	3.667
B+	3.333
B	3.000
B-	2.667
C+	2.333
C	2.000
C-	1.667
D	1.000
F	0.000
I	0.000 (until Incomplete is removed)
NR	Not reported
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
V	Auditor
W	Discontinued with permission

Grades of C- and D are awarded in the Graduate School and are used to calculate both semester and cumulative G.P.A.; however, they will not be accepted for completion of graduate degree requirements, specific required coursework, and/or total credit hours for completion of coursework. If a student receives lower than a grade of C in a required course, he or she must either retake the same course or its equivalent as determined by the program.

*AND*

#### Section 4.5 Grade Point Average

Quality point values are used to compute the student's G.P.A. The G.P.A. is the ratio of accumulated earned quality points to the accumulated graded semester credit hours.

Only courses taken at Notre Dame are used to calculate a student's G.P.A. Continuation in a graduate degree program, admission to degree candidacy, and graduation require maintenance of at least a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.).