

Pass+/Pass/No Pass Grading System

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I opt into the P+/P/NP grading system?

Students can opt into P+/P/NP grading on the Student tab in PioneerWeb. A channel will be available – Changes to Grading for Winter 2021. Click “Winter Quarter 2021 Grade Mode Selection.” You may select P+/P/NP for any eligible class. You may change your selection at any time until three business days after grades have been published.

What process will be utilized to convert an assigned letter grade to a P+/P/NP grade?

Three business days after final grades have been made available, your assigned grade will be converted to P+/P/NP if you have opted in. After the grade has been converted, you may not change back to the original grade.

Can I choose the P+/P/NP grading system for more than one class?

No. For Academic Year 2020-21, DU students have the ability to opt into P+/P/NP grading for one undergraduate course per quarter.

How will the modified grading policy impact my GPA?

For a course where a student elects the P+/P/NP grade, that course will not be calculated in a student’s GPA. However, standard letter grades for the remaining courses will be calculated in a student’s GPA.

What do I need to consider before switching to the modified grading option?

Changing to Pass Plus/Pass/No Pass (P+/P/NP) could have implications on satisfactory academic progress for financial aid purposes, scholarship eligibility, veterans’ benefits, major and minor requirements, prerequisites, and competitiveness of graduate program applications, among other areas. Students should check with their program advisors before making this decision. For students receiving financial aid, please visit the financial aid website and view the special FAQ on financial aid satisfactory academic progress and modified grading.

Who is eligible to elect to convert a letter grade course to P+/P/NP grading for the 2020-2021 academic year?

Any DU undergraduate student may exercise this option for one undergraduate course per quarter.

Once a student decides to convert letter grade class to P+/P/NP will there be further opportunity to reverse that decision?

After grades are available for viewing, and a student chooses to elect to convert a class to P+/P/NP, the decision is irrevocable, without appeal with respect to the mode of grading. All policies regarding general grade appeals remain in place.

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What resources will be available to help a student decide whether to convert a class to P+/P/NP grading?

Students should consult an academic advisor, dean's office, financial aid officer, or any other campus resource with whom they regularly work on decisions related to registration, add/drop, or repeating coursework. Please know that many colleges and universities have taken similar steps in creating different grading modes for this quarter, but the external agencies are still trying to understand the impact. We share information as we learn it.

Students are responsible for completing their own due diligence to be fully aware of the implications of their decision to convert their letter grades to P+/P/NP grading.

Taking this step will be especially significant as students consider the implications of their GPA and its impact on scholarships (athletics and other), financial aid, veterans' benefits, licensure, graduate/professional school admission, and/or other professional goals.

What if I don't want the faculty member to know I'm taking the class as a P+/P/NP?

Faculty members will not know whether or when a student elects this option. If a student's regular advisor also is the faculty member teaching the class, confidentiality can be preserved by working with a staff academic advisor. However, there are many good reasons for speaking directly with the faculty member about the option, in order to accurately make an assessment about your final grade in the class.

Will a "P" grade apply to my major or minor?

PASS grades cannot be applied to a major or minor. They are equivalent to D+, D, or D-, and for that reason they will not apply to undergraduate majors or minors.

Students who want to elect this grading option for a course within their major or minor should choose PASS+.

Advisors should discuss prerequisite benchmarks in detail with students. Students will have to repeat the class if it is required in order to satisfy major/minor GPA requirements.

How does this affect prerequisites?

Prerequisites do not change. If a course specifies that a previous course must be passed with at least a C- grade, then a PASS grade will not satisfy that prerequisite. A PASS+ grade satisfies minimum grade requirements for advancing within a program of study.

How will this affect Deans' List and other honors?

Our policies remain unchanged. To be eligible for the Dean's Honor List, a student must achieve a quarterly grade point average of at least 3.75 with 12 earned quarter hours or more. A student who earns a quarterly GPA of 4.0 with a minimum of 12 earned quarter hours is named a Hornbeck Scholar. Students must earn grades that carry grade points (A - F) in the required number of credit hours to be eligible for these awards.

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How will this affect Latin Honors?

Our policies remain unchanged. Only letter grades will be used in determining Latin Honors. The university will observe the 90 quarter hour requirements with required letter grades in those courses.

How will my P+/P grade impact a course I am repeating?

Consistent with our policies, the P+ grade will count toward your major or minor, and it will replace grades of D+ and lower for the purpose of fulfilling the major/minor requirement. However, your GPA will not be impacted; thus the lower grade that will be replaced is still used in GPA determinations.

When is the best time for me to consider opting into the P+/P/NP system?

We've set the deadline for choosing the alternate grading mode AFTER students know their grades for the quarter, 3 business days after grades are made available for viewing. We encourage students to make their decision once they have full information about their performance in the class and they understand whether the grade will permit them to advance in their program.

What if I don't want the P+/P/NP grading?

If students take no action, normal letter grading will apply. Students must opt into the P+/P/NP grade mode via PioneerWeb. Students who wish to receive normal letter grading for the winter quarter do not need to take any action.

What happens if a student earns a No Pass (NP)?

Grades of NP will have no impact a student's GPA, nor will they impact the calculation of a student's cumulative course completion rate.

Can the decision to take a class Pass Plus/Pass/No Pass be reversed?

No. Once students opt into this grading mode, the decision cannot be revoked.

Will students who request an Incomplete for a winter 2021 class be permitted to convert the class to P+/P/NP grading?

No. Courses must be completed in the winter 2021 quarter to be eligible for this grading mode. Once an incomplete is assigned, it must be finished in the agreed upon time or it will atrophy to an F.

If I choose to take an Incomplete grade for a winter 2021 course, can the final earned grade be converted to P+/P/NP once it is posted to my transcript?

No. Students can only opt into the alternative grading mode for classes *completed* during the 2021 winter term.

Will students who finish an Incomplete (assigned in a prior quarter) during winter quarter 2021 be able to opt into P+/P/NP?

No. Only winter 2021 classes are eligible for this grading mode.

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How will future employers and universities know that DU decided to allow an optional Pass Plus/Pass/No Pass grading for winter 2021?

Official University of Denver transcripts will include a notation that explains that for the winter 2021 quarter, students had the option to elect the P+/P/NP system. The notation will indicate the grading standards for each level:

- Pass Plus (P+) is defined as institutional credit with a grade of C- or higher.
- Pass (P) is defined as institutional credit with a grade of D+, D, or D-.
- No Pass (NP) is defined as no institutional credit because the grade is lower than D-.

Can students on academic probation earn their credential (degree or certificate) and graduate after winter quarter if they receive PASS+ or PASS in their winter courses but their program is below the published standard?

No, all other institutional policies – such as required GPA for graduation remain in place.