

## **ONU Optional Pass/Low Pass/Not Passed Policy Due to Covid-19 Disruption of Instruction for Spring 2020**

Ohio Northern University understands the many challenges students face with the wide spread disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including ONU's rapid transition to alternative and remote delivery instruction. Faculty, exhibiting maximum flexibility and compassion, and without sacrificing integrity, will assign an end of term grade to students using the typical grading scale for that course. Most courses are graded on an A-F grading scale, but some courses traditionally utilize the S/U grading scale.

To provide more flexibility to students and to reduce stress during these challenging times, the University will provide all students the option of a Pass/Low Pass/Not Passed (P/LP/NP) grading option for any class for the spring 2020 semester AFTER the term has ended and grades are recorded. Additionally, all student transcripts will be modified as follows to provide an adequate context about the disruption caused by the Spring 2020 global health crisis: 'Semester disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. Spring grading allowed this term to adjust for university-wide emergency remote learning. P - Pass, LP - Low Pass, NP – Not Passed'

Once elected, the Pass/Low Pass/Not Passed (P/LP/NP) grading scale is binding and cannot be reversed in the future. **STUDENTS SHOULD READ THE POLICY FULLY, CONSULT THEIR ADVISOR OR DEAN'S OFFICE, AND CONSIDER GRADUATE SCHOOL AND FINANCIAL AID IMPLICATIONS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.**

For students electing to change a specific course to the Pass/Low Pass/Not Passed (P/LP/NP) grading scale:

- Students earning the equivalent of a C or better will be awarded a grade of P (pass); students earning the equivalent of a D will be awarded a grade of LP (low pass). In the College of Law, C-, D+, D, and D- will be awarded the grade of LP.
- For the spring 2020 semester, credits earned with a P or LP grade will count toward the total credits required for graduation.
- Students failing a course will receive a grade of NP (not passed) and will earn no credits. The course will not meet graduation requirements and it will not count towards satisfactory academic progress (SAP) for financial aid purposes.
- Courses completed with P/LP/NP are not included in any term or cumulative grade point average (GPA) calculations.
- A grade of LP differs from P in that it signifies that a student has not met a minimum C proficiency, which is sometimes needed for progression through a sequence of courses in particular majors.
- If there are course requirements in a student's academic program or courses for program entry which require a "C or better grade" (for ex. Nursing, Education), then only courses completed with a grade of P will count in the degree requirement or as prerequisites to future courses. See the ONU Catalog for the academic program requirements. Progression requirements may be waived at the discretion of the dean.

- If there are course requirements in a student's academic program that require a "D or better grade," then only courses completed with a grade of P or LP will count in the degree requirement or as prerequisites for future courses with a D or better requirement.
- Students may convert a course to P/LP/NP if they have previously taken the same course for a regular grade. All grades earned previous to Spring 2020 will remain on the transcript, but these previous grades, along with the P/LP/NP grade, will not be used in calculating the cumulative GPA.
- Students who receive a grade of incomplete in a particular course in Spring 2020 may elect the P/LP/NP grade mode for that course. These students will have five business days after the traditional letter grade of A through F is recorded in self-service Banner to request the P/LP/NP grading mode.
- Students will apply for the course grade conversion through an online form provided by the Registrar. On the form, students will specify the courses that the student elects to convert from the grade earned in any of their courses to the P/LP/NP grading option. This change is not reversible once chosen, and the request must be approved by the dean (or representative) of the student's college of enrollment.
- The P/LP/NP grading option may be elected only if this option does not affect State certifications, licensing, and the like. High school students taking ONU courses will need to consult with their school district guidance counselor.
- Students will receive a link to the online form later in April, along with specific timing deadlines as to when this form must be submitted in order to invoke the optional grading policy on a Spring 2020 course. In all of ONU's colleges except law, faculty must submit all their grades by noon on May 11 for graduating students and noon on May 13 for continuing students. Students will have about five business days after these dates to submit the form to seek advice from faculty advisors, the dean's office staff, and financial aid counselors. The law school follows a different grading schedule, but again, law students will be given a short window of time after grades are posted to invoke the optional grading policy.

**ELECTING TO SWITCH A COURSE TO P/LP/NP MAY NOT BE ADVISABLE IF:**

- You need to raise your GPA for academic probationary requirements or to raise your GPA above the 2.0 threshold for graduation;
- A course is required for a post-graduate professional program (e.g., medical school), as it is unclear how these programs will view this grading scheme for Spring 2020. Currently, pass/fail grades are frequently not allowed for admission to many professional programs;
- A course is required for a combined degree program (e.g., 3+2 programs in sociology, religion, youth ministry, or athletic training; 3+3 programs in ONU's law colleges).
- There are negative impacts on international students who elect to switch their courses to P/LP/NP. International students should confirm their government sponsors or other scholarships are not affected if a student elects to choose the P/LP/NP grade on a course.
- A student desires to be on the dean's list and has fewer than 12 graded A-F hours. The dean's list requires a student to have at least 12 graded hours and a term GPA of at least 3.50.

**Reasons to stay with the regular grade (A-F or S/U) option:**

- You have done well in the course.
- Your course grade will raise your GPA or be consistent with your current GPA.
- You need to raise your GPA for academic probationary requirements.
- You need to raise your GPA for satisfactory academic progress (SAP) concerns. Not meeting satisfactory academic progress can affect your federal financial aid. Please review the undergraduate, MSA, and pharmacy student SAP policy or the law student SAP policy.
- You need to meet GPA requirements, or to raise your GPA above the 2.0 threshold for graduation.
- A student desires to be on the dean's list. The dean's list requires a student to have at least 12 graded A-F hours and a term GPA of at least 3.50.
- A course is required for a post-graduate professional program (e.g., medical school) as it is unclear how these programs will view this grading scheme for Spring 2020. Currently, a grade of P is frequently not allowed for many professional programs.
- A course is required for a combined degree program (e.g., 3+2 programs in sociology, religion, youth ministry, or athletic training; 3+3 programs in ONU's law colleges).

**Reasons to switch to the P/LP/NP grade option:**

- The shift to remote teaching and learning caused you to not do as well as you would have in the regular face-to-face format.
- You had impediments to remote learning, such as inconsistent access to the internet.
- The shift to remote teaching and learning resulted in you needing to focus on some classes more than others (elect the P/LP/NP in the class for which you had a diminished focus).
- You feel you underperformed and are concerned about lowering your GPA.
- You became ill with Covid-19 or cared for others in your household and this impacted your ability to earn the grade you desired.
- You are satisfied with your current cumulative GPA and do not seek to raise this GPA.