

**Scholastic Standards Committee  
To the University Senate  
Present: 3.7.2022 & Vote: 4.4.2022**

SSC Proposed By-Law Change on 26-Credit Limit for Accessing P/F By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.E.3.b, Grades Not Used to Calculate the GPA (Pass-Fail Option)

**Background:**

The Covid period has made students, faculty, and advisors far more aware of the P/F option, which was previously used by students doing exploratory work without the stress of a grade (as a course had to be converted to a P/F grading basis by the tenth day). Given that the date for P/F grading has now been extended to the eleventh week of the semester, it is now widely used for students to manage their stress levels and their GPAs. Given this usage, it should be **open to first-year students**. This is an equity issue given unequal access to college credit in high schools.

The SSC considered three major arguments against this change:

1. There is a concern that the P/F option may obscure poor academic performance. The P/F option therefore remains unavailable to students on scholastic probation. Additionally, the SSC recommends **the addition of a restriction to one P/F course per semester**.
2. There is a concern that students in some high-enrolment courses will be disadvantaged because they may need to repeat those courses on repeat forgiveness, which will alter their enrolment appointment. A list of these courses is currently available at the registrar's office, and communication must be made to all advisors in order to ensure that students are making the P/F decision with full information.
3. There is a potential "slippery slope" in changing the by-laws on the Pass-Fail Option for a third time in three years (previously for Covid mitigations and then permanently changing the deadline to the eleventh week). The SSC feels it is important to maintain the three-course (twelve-credit) limit on P/F courses. It is reviewing the question of whether or not to also recommend removing the restriction on students on academic probation.

The SSC examined peer and aspirant policies on P/F and found a wide range of policies. UConn is well in line with our peers and aspirants with our current policy as well as with the proposed policy.

**Current By-Law:**

By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.E.3.b, Grades Not Used to Calculate the GPA (Pass-Fail Option)

Pass-Fail Option. A student who has earned at least 26 credits and is not on scholastic probation may elect a maximum of 12 credits (not including credits on P/F recorded in spring 2020) to be distributed over not more than three courses, to be recorded as 'P' for Pass or 'F' for Fail on his or her permanent record. Courses taken Pass-Fail may only be used as electives; they may not

be used to satisfy general education, school/college, major or minor requirements. Students who are selecting a course for the Pass-Fail Page 26 of 41 approved 12.21.2021 option or want to convert a Pass-Fail back to a graded basis must do so by the eleventh of the semester. Students who convert to a Pass-Fail and then revert the course back to a graded basis cannot again convert the course back to a Pass-Fail. Students seeking to put a course on Pass-Fail after the eleventh week of the semester must get approval from the student's advisor and from the Dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Approvals are given only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control; poor academic performance is not an extenuating circumstance. For courses taught outside of the fall and spring semesters, these deadlines will be adjusted in a pro-rated fashion by the Registrar.

During the semester the student completes the course and is graded in the usual way by the instructor; and the instructor submits a letter grade (per 3a, above). This letter grade is translated into a 'P' ('D-' or above) or remains an 'F.' In neither event will a course taken under the Pass-Fail option be included in the computation of the semester or cumulative grade point average, but a grade below 'C' makes the student ineligible for Dean's List. The individual schools and colleges have the privilege of adopting the PassFail option with or without supplementary restrictions. Students are referred to the detailed statements of the various schools in the University Catalog for such restrictions.

#### **Proposed By-Law:**

By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.E.3.b, Grades Not Used to Calculate the GPA (Pass-Fail Option)

Pass-Fail Option. A student who ~~has earned at least 26 credits and~~ is not on scholastic probation may elect a maximum of 12 credits (not including credits on P/F recorded in spring 2020) to be distributed over not more than ~~one course per semester and~~ three courses ~~total~~, to be recorded as 'P' for Pass or 'F' for Fail on his or her permanent record. Courses taken Pass-Fail may only be used as electives; they may not be used to satisfy general education, school/college, major or minor requirements. Students who are selecting a course for the Pass-Fail option or want to convert a Pass-Fail back to a graded basis must do so by the eleventh week of the semester. Students who convert to a Pass-Fail and then revert the course back to a graded basis cannot again convert the course back to a Pass-Fail. Students seeking to put a course on Pass-Fail after the eleventh week of the semester must get approval from the student's advisor and from the Dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Approvals are given only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control; poor academic performance is not an extenuating circumstance. For courses taught outside of the fall and spring semesters, these deadlines will be adjusted in a pro-rated fashion by the Registrar.

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supplementary restrictions. Students are referred to the detailed statements of the various schools in the University Catalog for such restrictions.