Pass/Fail Option Guidance for Graduate Students in the School of Education (SOE)

Before making a decision regarding P/F, please meet with your advisor(s) for your department, financial aid/scholarships and any programs or situations potentially impacted by GPA (such as admission to the School of Education Graduate Program, entry into student teaching, grade replacement, etc.). If your GPA before Spring 2020 was close to or below 3.0, please make an appointment with your advisor.

Our general recommendations to SOE graduate students for classes in Spring 2020:

- If you receive a D-, D, D+, C-, C or C+, we recommend that you do not opt into the P/F option. This would negatively impact your GPA and prevent you from retaking the class and requesting a grade replacement.
- If you receive a B-, B, B+ or A-, we recommend speaking with your advisor before making any decision to opt into the P/F option.
- If you receive an A or A+, we recommend that you do not opt into the P/F option.

Below are some frequently asked questions and answers that may be helpful for you.

1. **Is this P/F grade optional?**
   
   Yes. You can choose to have a P/F grade instead of an A+ through F grade. Before you make a decision, take into consideration how this is going to impact your GPA and the recommendations listed above. Please consult with your faculty advisor, the financial aid office, and any other party with questions or concerns about the effects on your academic progress.

2. **Is this special P/F option only for Spring 2020?**
   
   Yes. This option is only for Spring 2020.

3. **What grades are considered as a Pass and a Fail?**
   
   Pass = A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-
   
   Fail = C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F

4. **Will a “P” notation have a GPA designation?**
   
   No. There is no GPA designation for a “P” notation. In other words, the “P” will not affect your GPA calculation. Please talk with an advisor for an impact of this notation.

5. **Do I get the credit hours for the course if I choose to get a “P” notation?**
   
   Yes. You will get the credit hours for the course. However, it won’t be included in GPA calculation.

6. **If I choose the P/F option and I earn an “F”, will that impact my GPA?**
   
   Yes. The “F” notation is just like a graded “F”, which is 0 points in the GPA calculation. Therefore, if you earn a “C” or “D” in a course, you probably want to keep the “C” or “D” grade instead of choosing the P/F option. A “C” and a “D” are both considered as an “F” in the P/F option for graduate coursework.
7. **Will a “P” notation be accepted for student teaching application?**
   Yes, for courses taken Spring 2020 only.

8. **I’m planning to student teach in the Fall 2020. How will choosing the P/F option affect the calculation of my GPA for student teaching?**
   If your GPA was 3.0, just above or lower before the Spring 2020 semester, it’s important for you to consult your faculty advisor before making a decision.

9. **I’m planning to student teach in the Spring, 2021 or later. How will choosing the P/F option affect the calculation of GPA for student teaching?**
   A “P” for the spring 2020 semester will count as a passing grade for teacher licensure classes but will not affect the GPA calculation. An “F” grade will not count as a passing grade for teacher licensure classes. Each student’s situation will be unique and considered within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Be sure to consult your faculty advisor before making a decision.

10. **Will a “P” notation affect graduate program admission?**
    The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting colleges and universities across the country. Many are considering or have implemented similar P/F options for this semester. Each student’s application to graduate school will depend on overall application materials and the specific program to which the student applies.

11. **How do I request this P/F option for this spring 2020?**
    The form will be available on the Student Hub on the MSU Denver website prior to posting date and must be completed and sent before Noon on May 25th.

12. **What if I would prefer to withdraw from the class rather than take a grade for the class?**
    The deadline for withdrawing from a course has been extended to May 15th for the Spring 2020 semester for full-term courses. As the refund deadline has already passed, refunds will not be offered. Please consult your faculty advisor and/or course instructor prior to deciding to withdraw.