

COVID-19 Grading Accommodations

Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

Updated January 4, 2021

Pass/Fail Grade Option

Effective August 27, 2020, the University expanded the pass/fail grade option for undergraduate courses in the College of Arts & Sciences, Kenan-Flagler Business School, School of Information and Library Science, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, School of Education, Adams School of Dentistry and the Gillings School of Global Public Health. This option was amended in October 2020 to include undergraduate courses in the School of Medicine and further updated on January 4, 2021 to include the Spring 2021 semester.

As an alternative to earning a letter grade, undergraduate students will have the option to declare any undergraduate course (numbered below 700) pass/fail. Courses declared pass/fail in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 will be eligible to be used toward major, minor, General Education and any other degree requirement (more information below). There is no limit on the number of courses that a student can declare pass/fail in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Any courses declared pass/fail in these semesters will not count toward any graduation limits on pass/fail courses.

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with [Academic Advising](#) or an advisor in their respective professional school prior to making any decisions on declaring an undergraduate course or courses as pass/fail for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. **Undergraduate students can declare a course pass/fail by the last day of classes, November 17, 2020 for Fall 2020 and May 5, 2021 for Spring 2021.**

Courses declared pass/fail in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 will receive one of three grades: Pass, Low Pass, or Fail. Grades of C or higher will be converted to a Pass. Grades of C-, D+, or D will be converted to a Low Pass. Grades of F will remain a Fail. Courses that receive a Low Pass cannot be used for graduation requirements or prerequisites that require a grade of C or higher.

The University will continue to use the 'CV' grade as an alternative to the Incomplete ('IN') grade for any undergraduate student adversely affected by the public health emergency. CV grades address the accessibility and equity issues of some students who are unable to complete coursework. Additionally, courses dropped after August 31, 2020, for Fall 2020, and February 1, 2021, for Spring 2021, will have the withdrawal notation 'WCV' on student transcripts. Courses with a 'WCV' notation will *not* count toward the 16-hour limit of WC (withdrawal by student choice) over the course of a student's academic career.

This policy applies only to undergraduate courses in the schools listed above. Students, including undergraduates, enrolled in other professional schools or programs in The Graduate School will follow the decisions of their professional school or of The Graduate School.

How the Pass/Fail Grade Option Applies to Undergraduate Students

Existing policies for pass/fail will be suspended for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

- Undergraduate students will be able to declare any undergraduate course (numbered below 700) pass/fail.
- Courses declared pass/fail in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 are eligible to be used toward major, minor, General Education and any other degree requirement.
- There is no limit on the number of Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 courses that a student can declare pass/fail.
- Any Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 courses declared pass/fail will not count toward any graduation limits on pass/fail courses.

Faculty will not know in advance if students have declared a course pass/fail.

- All courses will be graded as normal (letter grades)
- Consistent with the current criteria for students who opt for pass/fail grading, faculty will not be aware of students who elect the pass/fail grading option when entering final grades.

Courses declared as pass/fail will receive one of three grades:

- Pass – Courses completed with a grade of C or higher
 - Fulfill all degree requirements (major, minor, prerequisite and GENED)
 - Count as earned semester hours
 - Do not factor into the GPA
- Low Pass – Courses completed with a grade of C-, D+ or D
 - Only fulfill degree requirements that do not require a C or better
 - Cannot be used for course prerequisites requiring a grade of C or higher
 - Cannot count towards the required number of C or higher hours for a major/minor
 - Count as earned semester hours
 - Do not factor into the GPA
- Fail – Courses completed with a grade of F
 - Do not count as earned semester hours
 - Factor into the GPA as a graded F

The deadline to declare a course pass/fail under these accommodations is the last day of classes, November 17, 2020 for Fall 2020 and May 5, 2021 for Spring 2021.

- For the Fall 2020 semester, undergraduate **students can declare a course pass/fail or remove a course from pass/fail no later than the last day of classes, Tuesday, November 17, 2020.** For the Spring 2021 semester, **undergraduate students can declare a course on pass/fail or remove a course from pass/fail no later than the last day of classes, Wednesday, May 5, 2021** via the Office of the [University Registrar's website](#).

'CV' Grade

The University continues to use the 'CV' grade in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. On March 23, 2020, the University created a new grade of 'CV' as an alternative to the Incomplete ('IN') grade. 'CV' grades address the accessibility and equity issues of some students who are adversely affected and/or unable to complete coursework due to the global public health emergency.

How the 'CV' Grade Applies to Students:

- A 'CV' grade will work similarly to an 'IN' grade for an individual student. As with an 'IN' grade, a student could pass the course; however, the student requires more time to complete particular assignments after the course has ended. Once work is complete, the grade will convert to a letter grade or pass/fail grade, depending upon the grading basis of the course.
- 'CV' grades will not be included in GPA calculation, will not count toward credits earned, will not satisfy graduation requirements and will not be calculated as a 0.00 GPA for eligibility.
- The deadline to replace 'CV' designations with permanent grades will extend three months past the typical 8 weeks into the following semester for undergraduates, differentiating it from the 'IN' grade. **The deadline to complete work for Fall 2020 'CV' courses is Tuesday, June 1, 2021. The deadline to complete work for Spring 2021 'CV' courses is Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Failure to complete work by the deadline will result in an F*.**

Given these grading accommodations, the Dean's List and class rank for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters are suspended. In addition, UNC-Chapel Hill will include a transcript note on all undergraduate academic records, regardless of grading basis, indicating the extraordinary circumstances of the global public health emergency during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Again, we strongly encourage undergraduate students to consult proactively with [Academic Advising](#) or an advisor in their respective professional school if they have any questions about utilizing these grading accommodations or if they are experiencing academic challenges. Advisors can help students think about the possible impact to their graduation timeline, as well as future decisions and opportunities.