

Pass/Fail for Spring 2020

Note: The information provided here applies for this semester only, given the unique and challenging circumstances due to the COVID19 pandemic. The standard policies and details around taking classes pass/fail under usual circumstances can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin [here](#).

- All undergraduate students at Georgetown may **choose to take their courses pass/fail this semester**, a choice they are free to make **until Tuesday, April 28 at 12:00 pm EDT (the last day of classes)**. However, please keep in mind that classes that ended prior to March 16, 2020 (Mod A classes and some Part-of-Term courses) are not eligible for pass/fail.
- The withdrawal date for each course will be extended to the last day of classes (**Tuesday, April 28th**).

Pass/Fail Questions:

- **When can I begin selecting courses to take pass/fail?**
 - At the end of March. The Office of the University Registrar will notify students via email when the pass/fail process is open. You will be given instructions on how to select courses for the pass/fail option instead of the letter grade option.
- **Does it have to be all-or-nothing, or can I choose which classes to take pass/fail?**
 - It is up to you to decide if you want to take one or more of your classes pass/fail this semester. It is not an all-or-nothing situation.
- **Can classes I'm taking for my core requirements be taken pass/fail?**
 - Yes.
- **Can classes for my major/minor/certificate be taken pass/fail?**
 - Yes.
- **Will this impact my GPA?**
 - Classes taken pass/fail will not impact your GPA. They still factor into your overall credit count and any other requirement you're seeking.
- **Will this impact my ability to graduate with Latin honors?**
 - Because pass/fail classes do not count towards your GPA, they will not factor into the calculations for Latin honors.
- **Will taking a major course pass/fail impact my ability to pursue the honors program within my major?**

- This is a departmental/programmatic decision. Contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies in your major department or program for information.
- **How should I make this decision?**
 - We advise you to wait a couple of weeks as you get settled into virtual instruction. Then, make a judgment call after you get into the routine of instructional continuity. If you need help weighing the pros and cons, reach out to your academic counselor or dean.
- **What grade do I need to earn to pass a class?**
 - You must earn a **C or above** in order to get a passing grade and receive credit for a class taken pass/fail. However, you are advised to aim for a B or higher to allow for some wiggle room in your predictions of your final grade. The pass/fail option is risky if you are unsure of your standing in a course or feel you might earn a grade of C- or lower.
- **How will it show up on my transcript?**
 - A passing grade will show up on the transcript as an S for “satisfactory”, while grades equivalent to a C- or lower will receive a U for “unsatisfactory”. Neither the S nor the U will affect your QPI (GPA), **but you will only receive credit if you earn an “S” (passing grade)**. Please keep in mind that although a U may not necessarily indicate the equivalent of an F, the Dean’s Office will consider it a failing grade in our review of academic standards and final grades.
- **Once I choose to take a course pass/fail, can I change my mind and take it for a letter grade instead?**
 - No, it’s not possible to go back and forth between the two options, so please take the time you need to make this decision, consulting with your academic advisor in the Dean’s Office and your professor if you have questions.
- **I am taking a consortium course which effectively acts like a pass/fail course in that it does not affect my GPA. But the letter grade is transcribed. Can I request that an S/U grade show on my transcript instead of a letter grade for my consortium course?**
 - Yes. You must notify your dean in writing to request S/U grade to be recorded on your transcript for a consortium course.
- **What will employers/grad schools think?**
 - **From the Cawley Career Center:**

Even without the truly extraordinary experience we're in right now with COVID-19, in most cases it's okay and completely acceptable to take a class pass/fail. Many programs (such as Georgetown’s Bridge courses) institute pass/fail as a rule in general, and many schools across

the US are implementing a new policy to allow students to take their courses pass/fail for this semester. Most likely, employers won't ask. If they do, we're glad to work with you to be ready with a response that you feel good about and that will be compelling for an employer or graduate program. With that being said, it is important to continue to do the best that you can in your coursework at this time.

No decisions have to be made today about whether or not you choose to take your courses pass/fail. In fact, you have the opportunity to see this semester all the way through to the end before making this decision. Use that time to focus deeply on your studies, and communicate often with your professor about your progress. That way, you will be able to make an informed decision at the end of the semester regarding whether or not electing to take your course pass/fail would be beneficial for you. This experience will be an amazing opportunity for you in the future to demonstrate to employers and graduate school admissions officers that you were able to be flexible, thrive when challenged, and demonstrate growth and resilience during tough times.

The Cawley Career Center is offering virtual drop-in appointments every weekday from 1 pm to 3 pm EDT if you'd like to discuss your particular situation with an advisor.