

From: econugvicechair@ucsd.edu
Cc: econugadvisor
Subject: Department of Economics decision on Winter and Spring 2021 P/NP grading option
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:42:41 AM

Dear Economics Students,

I hope you are having a good Winter Quarter!

I am writing with the Department of Economics decision concerning the Pass/No Pass (P/NP) option for the Winter and Spring quarters of 2021.

On January 19th the UCSD Academic Senate approved temporary accommodations to Senate policies for Winter and Spring 2021 concerning the P/NP grading option for undergraduate students. These accommodations were approved to support students during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The accommodations are:

1. Extension of the deadline to change grading option (Letter or P/NP) from the end of the fourth week to the end of the tenth week of instruction.
2. Exclusion of P/NP grades earned from the 25% limit on the number of course units that may be completed on a P/NP basis. Extending permission so that students not in good academic standing may enroll in courses for a P/NP grade.

Typically, Economics does not accept any courses for the major if graded P/NP—all major courses must be taken for a letter grade.

However, in light of the decision of the Senate, and considering the exceptional circumstances, the Department of Economics has agreed to revise the P/NP policy for Economics, Management Science, and Joint Math-Econ majors as follows:

A maximum of four (4) major courses taken in Winter Quarter 2021 and a maximum of two (2) major courses taken in Spring Quarter 2021 will be accepted for major credit as long as a student earns a Passing (P) grade. This policy includes upper and lower division courses as well as any math classes required for our majors.

It is the firm belief of the Department that the decision to take major classes as P/NP could have important impacts on your career opportunities and so should be exercised only when absolutely needed. We strongly urge you to reflect on the following considerations before making the decision to take a class P/NP:

1. Your Major GPA is an important signal to prospective employers and graduate schools provided it reflects your performance on a large set of classes. A high GPA resulting from only a small number of classes taken with a letter grade might be considered too uninformative.
2. Employers, letter writers, and graduate schools also look at your performance in individual classes that are known to be especially challenging. Having a P/NP in those classes will reduce the information your transcripts provide.
3. Taking a class as P/NP might change your behavior towards learning in that class, which may impact your performance in future classes that you will take as we return to normality in the Fall.
4. If you are planning to graduate with Honors from Economics, letter grades are still required.

While we believe it is important for us to stress what we think are important considerations in deciding whether to take classes for P/NP, we ultimately trust in your ability to make a decision that is best for your long term wellbeing.

Please check our COVID-19 Department Updates page (<https://economics.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/COVID-19%20Updates.html>) for additional important considerations. If you have questions after reviewing the information above, please contact your major/minor/college academic advisor through the VAC (<https://vac.ucsd.edu>).

All of us in the Economics Department would like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding through

these extraordinary times.

We wish you all the best for the rest of the Winter quarter and we look forward to seeing you back in person in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Giacomo Rondina
Vice-Chair of Undergraduate Studies