

From: econugvicechair@ucsd.edu <econugvicechair@ucsd.edu>  
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 2:41 PM  
Cc: econugadvisor <econugadvisor@ucsd.edu>  
Subject: Department of Economics decision on Fall 2020 retroactive P/NP grading option

Dear Economics students,

I hope you had a restful break and a peaceful start to the new year!

I am writing to inform you about the Department of Economics decision concerning the retroactive P/NP option for the Fall 2020 quarter.

On December 8 the Educational Policy Committee of the Academic Senate decided to offer students a one-time-only opportunity to petition to retroactively change grading options from Letter to Pass/Not Pass for Fall 2020 classes. The option will be accessible to you during the first four weeks of Winter 2021: January 4 - January 29, 2021.

The objective of the policy is to offer you an option that could be helpful in attenuating the impact that circumstances out of your control might have had on your academic performance in Fall 2020.

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

However, because of the exceptional circumstances, the Department has agreed to revise its policy for Economics, Management Science, and Joint Math-Econ majors as follows for Fall 2020: a maximum of FOUR major courses, taken in Fall 2020 and where the student earns a Passing (P) grade, will be accepted for major credit.

This policy for the Fall refers to upper and lower division courses as well as any math classes required for our majors. Courses that are always taken P/NP only do not count against this four-class limit.

In deciding whether to take the option of retroactively changing your grades for Fall 2020, please keep in mind that exercising the P/NP option for several of your major classes may impact your opportunities in the future.

Here are some considerations that may help inform your decisions, especially if you have already exercised the P/NP option for major classes in Spring 2020:

1. A specific GPA, or specific grades in undergraduate major courses may be required for Internship programs and successful graduate school applications.
2. Honors Requirements require letter grades:
  - \*Undergraduate Advanced Electives to determine Honors must be taken for letter grades
  - \*Econ 191AB (Honors seminars) must be taken for letter grades
  - \*Honors courses (Econ 100AH, etc.) require a 3.5 Major GPA, and an A- in the companion Core course
  - \*The application to Honors Essay requires students to have a 3.5 major GPA
3. Application to Undergraduate Instructional Assistant (UIA) positions require a minimum GPA of 3.5 in Economics major coursework (including lower division), a minimum overall GPA of 3.3, completion of the course to which you are applying, the achievement of an "A" or better in the requested lower-

division course, and achievement of an "A" or better for the requested upper-division course and course prerequisites as well as other courses in the sequence.

4. The Economics/GPS BA/MPP Program application requires a 3.4 Major GPA for entrance.

Please also remember that the option to retroactively change to Pass/No Pass comes with important qualifications, as communicated by the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) in their message to students:

1. Fall 2020 P/NP units will count toward the 25% maximum allowed by the University. This is an important difference, compared to the Spring 2020 policy.
2. Course work must be equivalent to C- or better to receive a P 3. A change from a D grade to a No Pass will result in a loss of units 4. A change to P/NP for a Fall 2020 course will be allowed for a repeat of a class in which a D or F grade was earned in an earlier term 5. Financial Aid packages may be affected by NP grades as they Satisfactory Progress (check with Financial Aid Office).
6. Grading option changes for courses in which a student has been reported for an academic integrity violation will not be allowed.
7. No exception has been made at this time to accept the transfer of P grades earned by undergraduate students in Fall 2020 to a UC San Diego Masters or Ph.D. degree program.
8. To be eligible for honors for any quarter, a student must have a 3.5 GPA in 12 graded units.

Please see the FAQ page (<https://vcsa.ucsd.edu/news/covid-19/academic-resources.html>) on petitioning a retroactive change of grading option in Fall Quarter 2020 for additional guidance. If you have questions after reviewing the information above and the FAQ page, please contact your major/minor/college academic advisor through the VAC (<https://vac.ucsd.edu>).

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

We wish you all the best for the Winter quarter, and we look forward to seeing you back on campus once the pandemic risk has subsided.

Sincerely,  
Giacomo Rondina  
Vice-Chair of Undergraduate Studies