

From: mfamulari@ucsd.edu
Subject: Welcome to Spring 2020
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Dear Economics students,

Welcome to Spring quarter 2020! I hope this finds you all healthy and excited to start this online quarter. The Economics Department's hope and goal for this quarter is to provide as high a quality intellectual experience as would have been the case if we were all meeting in person. Of course, there will be some trial and error and we are all going to have to make some adjustments. I urge you to work with your faculty and TAs to help make this grand experiment a success.

As you know, the campus is allowing undergraduates the option of selecting P/NP grades into 10th week this spring quarter. This policy may not be perfect, but is designed to lower stress for everyone. I want to let you know how the Economics Department will adapt to the policy change. In brief, we are allowing you to take up to four major classes P/NP.

Typically, Economics does not accept any courses for the major if graded P/NP—all major courses must be taken for a letter grade. Economics is revising this policy for Economics, Management Science, and Joint Math-Econ majors as follows for Spring 2020:

A maximum of FOUR major courses, taken in Spring 2020 and where the student earns a Passing (P) grade, will be accepted for major credit.

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

Some of you are looking ahead to graduate school or the job market. I want to remind you that every graduate school and most likely every employer is aware that Spring 2020 is an unusual quarter.

I also know that some of you were counting on Spring 2020 grades to boost your GPA. Remember, one quarter's grades have a small marginal impact on your overall average GPA.

I hope that this change in policy will help alleviate some of the stress, anxiety, and/or worry that you may currently be experiencing. The P/NP grading option will allow you to focus on learning the material in your Economics courses this quarter without the added academic performance pressure of trying to earn high grades. However, those of you with support from a non-UC San Diego granting agency please check their rules on whether or not you need to take courses for credit for staying in good standing for funding.

Since we are all moving online this quarter, I also want to share with you a video about successfully taking online classes created by a UC San Diego Psychology professor, Celeste Pilegard <https://youtu.be/1IUUVU-d1DM>

Please work with your instructors and TAs to help make this online quarter successful: be understanding as we learn together how to successfully offer our classes online, be sure to let your instructors and TAs know what is working and what is not, and, as always, conduct yourselves with integrity.

All of us in the Economics Department want to thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding through the Winter exam period, and through the Spring quarter to come.

Take Care,

Melissa Famulari
Vice-Chair of Undergraduate Education
Department of Economics