

Dear Simon Students,

We have listened to the concerns expressed by some of you about your course work during these very difficult times. We understand how challenging this environment can be especially if you are balancing family responsibilities with working from home. In addition, a number of you are working in the medical field and are working overtime to prepare for and deal with the crisis.

To this end, the Simon school is adopting the following new standards for grading graduate courses that are completed in Spring B:

1. The school will increase the maximum average grade from 3.5 to 3.6. Although this may seem like a small change, please realize that this will allow a much larger percentage of B+ grades to be given. We will also be encouraging faculty to be understanding of the demands placed on students at this time.
2. In addition, we will allow students to elect the Pass / Fail option for individual courses. This decision may be made up to up to 3 days **after** grades are posted (i.e., until 11:59 pm May 14). Therefore, if a student is happy with their grade in a given course they may keep it; otherwise, they can elect to have a passing grade of C or better converted to "S" (for Satisfactory). A failing grade of E will remain an "E". For all S grades, the credits will be counted toward graduation, but it will not affect your GPA. For all E grades, the credits will not be counted toward graduation and it will not be counted in your GPA. However, it is still considered a fail and you will have to repeat the class.
 - a. To change the grade, the students will email the Registrar (at registrar@simon.rochester.edu), the professor, and Dean Ron Goettler requesting that the grade be converted to "S". Once a student emails this request, the professor and Dean Goettler will Reply All to confirm the request is approved.
 - b. There are many things to consider before deciding to convert your grade to P/F, including the effects this could have on your job search. **We strongly encourage you to read through the FAQ below and talk to BOTH your OSE and Benet CMC advisors before making the decision to convert your grade.** Please reach out your advisors soon as they will not be able to accommodate a huge influx at the last minute.
 - c. Please note that a Pass/Fail system is not an automatic Pass. You will be required to demonstrate competence in the course at a letter grade of C or better to earn an S. While a switch to Pass/Fail may be tempting in the short run, please remember that some of you will require a GPA from your grades for your job search.
 - d. Once again, if you would like to choose this option, please speak to both your Benet CMC and OSE representatives sooner rather than later.
3. We will also extend the time allowed for course withdrawal out to 6 weeks (Friday, April 24, 2020). A student may withdraw from the course and opt to retake the course at a later date.

This option may not be feasible for MS students or students graduating this May. Please work closely with your advisor.

FAQ for the Pass/Fail grading option

1. What is the deadline for converting my grades to P/F?
 - The deadline once grades are posted is May 14, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

2. Can I decide to change to P/F after the deadline?
 - No. No changes will be allowed after May 14, 2020.

3. Can I change my mind and revert back to a regular grade?
 - No. Once you decide to change to P/F, you cannot change back.

4. Do I have to choose P/F for all classes or can I just choose one or two?
 - You can choose to do a P/F for one, two, three, or four of your Spring B classes.

5. I feel some stress. I don't really love online classes and really want to focus on my job search. Is P/F a good option for me if I just want to have less worry for my spring B classes?
 - Not necessarily. We strongly urge you to work hard and do the best you can in your classes. This is in your overall best interest. With the curve being adjusted, some may end up with better grades and can improve their GPA.
 - This option is meant to help students who are under extreme stress brought on by the current COVID-19 situation and simply cannot perform as well as they normally would in their academics.

6. What grades is P and what grade is F?
 - P is any grade from A – C
 - F is a grade of E

7. If I fail a class (E) and decide to convert that to a “fail” do I have to repeat the class later on?
 - Yes. Failure is failure and you will have to repeat the class. You need to have enough credits earned with passing grades.

- If the failed class is a core class you must re-take that core class to earn those credits.
 - If the failed class is an elective you may chose a different elective course to earn those credits.
8. If I fail a class and decide to take the F on my transcript, will the F go away if I repeat the class?
- No, the F will stay on the transcript. The re-take will count toward the credits to graduate but the original F will still be reflected on the transcript.
9. If I have to retake a class to replace an F, do I have to pay to retake the class?
- Yes, the same rules for repeating a class will still apply.
10. If I have to retake a class to replace an F, will that class also be P/F?
- Yes.
12. Will I be eligible for the Dean's List in the spring semester?
- If you choose to have a Pass/Fail grade on your transcript you will NOT be eligible to be on the Dean's list.
13. Will I still be eligible for Beta Gamma Sigma?
- Yes.
14. What if I am currently under a 3.0 GPA and on academic probation?
- You are REQUIRED to have a meeting with your advisor to discuss this.
15. Will choosing P/F option affect my scholarship or financial aid?
- No
16. Will having a P/F grade affect my ability to take the CPA exam?
- No, it does not impact the CPA exam in New York State.
 - However, if you are interested in taking the CPA in any other state, you should check into the requirements of that state before making this decision.

17. Will having P/F grading on my transcript have an impact on looking for employment?
- This is a hard question to answer. Grades and overall GPA are often taken into consideration by employers. It could be that some U.S. companies will be making exceptions when looking at spring 2020 knowing this was an unusual time in higher education. In other countries such as China, they may not have flexibility on this.
 - Because no one can predict how any one company will choose to look at a P/F option on a transcript, we urge all students to work hard to get the best grade they can and have their grades reflect their work. Only use P/F in circumstances where it would help you more than not help you.
 - If choosing P/F in any class is something you are considering, we strongly urge you to talk to your advisor in the Benet CMC to discuss your job search and any potential impact this could have.
18. Will having P/F grading on my transcript have an impact on applying to another MS or Ph.D. program?
- It could. Just like employers, some schools may be flexible and take the unique circumstance of spring 2020 into consideration. Some may not. You should check with any school on which you plan to apply and take their requirements into consideration.
 - Remember, whether it is a job interview or a Ph.D. program, not all other candidates will have P/F on their transcript and those students will be your competition.
19. If I have further questions or need to talk about my options who should I contact?
- You should contact both your academic advisor in the OSE and your career advisor in the Benet CMC to go over all potential impacts of this decision.