

Grading Advice and Convocation Credit Information for Spring 2020

As a response to COVID-19 and our resulting shift to remote learning, the faculty voted to give you the opportunity to CHOOSE to have your course grade converted to a Pass/D/Unsatisfactory (P/D/U) basis up to, but no later than, the last day of classes. If you choose this option, the instructor will submit a regular letter grade and a final grade of "C-" or higher will convert to a grade of Pass (P). A grade of "P" will not affect your grade point average (GPA) in any way, but you will receive course credit toward graduation. Grades of "D" and "U" will not be converted and will be factored into your GPA in the normal manner.

A fillable PDF form is attached that you can complete and send back to Sharon Duncan at sharon.duncan@centre.edu. You may elect the P/D/U option for any or all of your courses up until 4:30pm EST on the last day of classes (May 12, 2020). **Once you select to take a course on a P/D/U basis, you cannot change it back to a regular letter grade.**

Things to Know About Taking a Course on a P/D/U Basis

It is advised that you utilize the GPA calculator provided in your CentreNet account in order to determine the course grade effect on your cumulative GPA.

1. **For the spring term of 2020 only, any courses taken on a P/D/U basis will be allowed to count for general education and major course requirements.** Normally, courses graded on a P/D/U basis will not count for a general education requirement or a major course requirement, but in these special circumstances an exception has been granted by your professors.
2. When trying to decide if you would like to take a course on a P/D/U basis, please keep in mind that most graduate schools and professional schools (e.g., medical, law, dental, veterinary, etc.) require a regular letter grade (A through U grades) in prerequisite courses. In most cases, a grade of Pass will not count for these requirements. While we realize these are unusual times, Centre College professors have contacted several institutions that our students often attend and those schools have not changed their grade requirement for entrance based on the current situation. They might reconsider, but you should not base your decision on such a hope.
3. As stated earlier, a grade of "P" will not affect your GPA. If you need to raise your GPA for any reason, grades of "C" and higher may help to raise your GPA. For a student on probation, a grade of "C" or better may improve your cumulative GPA to the level required to alleviate your probationary status. In some cases, even grades of "C-" can help to raise your GPA based on your current cumulative GPA. In this instance, continuing to keep a regular letter grade would be the best option.
4. If you are on scholarship probation and are trying to raise your cumulative GPA, it is also advised that you receive a regular letter grade for any course that you know you will receive a grade that will raise your GPA.
5. Your GPA is calculated as the total of grade points earned divided by the number of quality points attempted. It is highly recommended that you use the **GPA calculator in CentreNet** to predict the impact of your choices on your GPA. GPA values for grades are listed below:

Excellent
A 4.000
A- 3.670

Good
B+ 3.330
B 3.000
B- 2.670

Satisfactory

C+ 2.330

C 2.000

C- 1.670

Marginal

D 1.000

Unsatisfactory

U 0.000

WU 0.000 Withdrew Unsatisfactory

None*

P: a passing mark awarded for work at the C- level or above

WP: Withdrew Passing

I: Incomplete

W: Withdrew

AU: Audit

NC: No Credit (Internships only)

*Not used in computing the grade point average

As an example, if you currently have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and want to raise your GPA, it would be wise to keep a regular letter grade in any course that you would receive a grade of B- or higher, rather than opting for a P.

6. In regards to graduation honors of Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude, keep in mind that a grade of "P" will not effect your GPA. If you are trying to raise your GPA in order to achieve one of these honors, you should keep a regular letter grade for any course that will increase your GPA and help you achieve one of these honors. The cutoffs for honors are listed below.

Summa Cum Laude – 3.900 or higher

Magna Cum Laude – 3.700 to 3.899

Cum Laude – 3.500 to 3.699

7. If you wish to make Dean's List at the end of the spring term, you will need to have a minimum of eight hours of coursework in the spring term with regular letter grade in order to be eligible.

Please consider this information carefully when making a decision regarding course grading this term. You will need to keep track of your grade standing during your courses and be in close communication with your professors and academic advisors about your course performance and grading choices.

Remember, once you select a course to be graded P/D/U, it will not be possible to change it back to a regular letter grade now or in the future. Similarly, it will not be possible to grant any requests for a grade change made after 4:30pm EST on May 12, 2020. Please contact your academic advisor or the Registrar's Office if you have any further questions regarding this process.

Convocation Credit

All full-time students attending Centre for the entire academic year are required to earn a total of twelve Convocation credits in order to receive one credit hour of "A" calculated into their GPA. Students who fail to accumulate twelve Convocation credits will have one credit hour of "U" factored into their GPA. **Due to COVID-19, Centre has reduced the Convocation credit requirement for students currently attending Centre to three.** If you already have completed three or more Convocation credits at any time during this academic year, you will not need to complete any additional Convocation credits. For those students who have not completed three Convocation credits, you will be given

opportunities to still complete the requirement. Keep in mind that current students who were not enrolled as Centre students during the fall of 2019 do not have to complete requirement, but can still can earn the one credit hour of “A” factored into their GPA if they complete the three required Convocation credits.

Thomas Manuel
Registrar