

Spring 2020 Graduate Architecture Grading Option

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1.0 Rationale for Proposed Option

Circumstances surrounding the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted the instructional environment for both students and faculty. In some cases, the tools and methods for evaluating student learning that were available at the beginning of the semester may no longer be available to the faculty member for the second half of the semester. Necessary changes in both instructional modalities and in approaches to student evaluation will be unsettling to many students. A grading option for spring 2020 is proposed that is hoped to relieve some student anxiety and to promote persistence in courses that the student might otherwise drop.

2.0 A P/NC Option

Graduate students in the School of Architecture do not under normal circumstances have the option of a Pass/Fail (P/F) grade. For the spring 2020 semester only, they will be granted the option of a variant of P/F which is the P/NC option. The NC grade is a new, spring semester 2020 only, grade at Notre Dame. The NC grade replaces an F grade in the P/F option. Neither the P nor the NC will be used in the computation of a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). This is in contrast to the P/F option, in which an F grade is included in the computation of a GPA. Grades of A, B, and C will be converted to a P (Pass) grade. Grades of C-, D, and F will be converted to a NC (No Credit) grade.

Graduate architecture grades are due May 11, 2020. Graduate architecture students will be able to view all standard letter course grades of A through F on May 12, 2020. From May 12 through May 29, 2020, graduate architecture students may file with their academic advising dean a request to switch any Spring 2020 course grade from A through F to P/NC, with the exception of courses that concluded prior to March 13, 2020.

The request will be made in the insideND portal. The Office of the Registrar will provide instructions for the electronic P/NC election later this semester. Please note that the default grade mode for courses currently utilizing the standard A through F letter grade format remains in place. Only those students who affirm in insideND a switch to P/NC between May 12th and May 29th will be able to have this grade mode adjusted. This election, once made, is irrevocable.

For students who have elected to audit a course or to take a course S/U, that previous designation will stand.

3.0 Summary of Proposed Changes to P/F Grading Option for Spring 2020

- Graduate students in the School of Architecture will have the option of a variant of P/F grading--the P/NC option.
- The F grade is replaced with the NC (no credit) grade, which is not used in GPA computation.
- The P/NC option is available to students in both the professional (M.Arch) and post-professional (M.ADU) architecture programs.
- Students may elect P/NC option after they see their Spring 2020 grades on May 12, 2020.
- Any standard letter grade courses of A through F can be switched to P/NC by student request and approval of the Architecture Advising Dean.
- P/NC option may be used for courses in the major, university requirements, or college requirements
- The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) has been consulted and confirmed that due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Spring 2020 semester, P/F or P/NC grades will be acceptable in accreditation of the program and certification of students' transcripts.

It is worth noting that while the motivation for the P/F grading option is to encourage students to explore courses outside of their comfort zone (especially courses outside their major), the motivation for the P/NC option is to encourage persistence in courses required for degree completion that students are taking under extraordinary circumstances.

4.0 Academic Code Provisions Directly Related to Proposal

Section 2e of the Graduate Architecture Student Handbook

Grades of "C-", "D", and "F" are awarded in the School of Architecture Graduate Programs and are used to calculate both the semester and cumulative G.P.A.; however, they will not be accepted for completion of graduate degree requirements, specific required coursework, and/or total credit hours for completion of coursework. If a student receives lower than a grade of "C" in a required course, he or she must either retake the same course (for all required courses) or its equivalent (in the case of an elective) as determined by the program. Credits (and quality points) for the failed course will remain on the transcript and will be calculated into the student's cumulative GPA even after the course has been retaken and passed successfully.

Under exceptional circumstances, a student receives the temporary grade of "I" when he or she has not completed the requirements for a 60000 or higher-level graduate course within the semester or the summer session.

The grades of "S" and "U" (Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory) are used in courses without semester credit hours as well as in research courses, departmental

seminars, colloquia, workshops, directed studies, field education, and skills courses. An "S" grade factors into a student's earned semester credit hours, but does not factor into the computation of the G.P.A. A grade of "U" will not count toward the student's earned semester credit hour total, nor will it factor into the computation of the G.P.A.