



Honors COVID-19 FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Email us: ask.honors@umich.edu

Honors Advising Appointments: <https://lsa.umich.edu/honors/make-an-appointment.html>
or <https://myadvising.lsa.umich.edu/appointments/offices/HONORS>

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Courses, Registration, Transcripts

What is the grading policy in winter 2020?

Grading for all undergraduate courses (including graduate courses taken by undergraduates in winter 2020 is the following:

- The primary change is that the default grading system for all courses will be Pass/NRC (No Record COVID).
- Faculty will report letter grades. Grades of C- or above will be converted to a grade of "P" and full academic credit will be awarded. Grades below C- will be converted to "NRC," and no academic credit will be awarded. Neither of the grades will have any effect on GPA calculations.

Can I "uncover" my letter grade?

Yes; students have until July 1 to request that the letter grade for a particular course be uncovered. In that case, the grade will be included in your GPA calculation.

Can I know my grade before asking for it to be uncovered?

Yes. After grades have been entered at the end of the Winter 2020 semester, students will have access to a new page in Wolverine Access Student Business that will display their Winter 2020 semester courses. Students will be able to select any P/NRC grades to convert to regular grading from that page. If agreeing to the conversion, the courses will display the letter grades and recalculate your GPA.

How will the new P/NRC grades impact honors and awards, such as University Honors, Angell Scholar, and/or school or college honors, etc.?

Students may want to choose to convert to a letter grade to be eligible for certain honors and other awards. The criteria for LSA Awards can be found [here](#).

What is the drop deadline this semester?

The last day to drop a course during winter 2020 is **April 21**. A course you drop **will not** appear on your transcript?

I dropped a course before the change in the grading policy. Will the “W” stay on my transcript?

For any request to drop a course that was initiated *after* March 10th, the W (“withdrawn”) will not appear on the *official* transcript. The official transcript is the one that is ordered from the Registrar, not the transcript viewed through Wolverine Access. Note that the W will remain on the unofficial transcript. For drops that were initiated prior to March 10, the W will remain on both transcripts.

Will the “P” I received in a course count toward my major or minor requirement?

Per Dean Curzan’s email on March 23, the answer is **yes**.

Will the “P” in my lower division course satisfy the grade prerequisite for an upper-division course?

The grading standard for “P” is work at the C- level. So if a prerequisite course for an upper-division course (or a college requirement, such as the ULWR) is C-, the P will satisfy it.

Here are some of the ways in which specific departments handle prerequisites:

- **EECS:**
 - Each grade of P in Winter 2020 will be treated as an A for the purpose of fulfilling course prerequisites for EECS 281
 - No attempts in Winter 2020 will count against the two-take limit for EECS 203, EECS 280, or EECS 281
 - LSA students declaring into CS have a GPA requirement. Each grade of P received in Winter 2020 will be treated as an A for the purpose of declaring into CS-LSA
 - The Computer Science major and minor will accept the Covid "P" toward their major and minor requirements, and the grade does not need to be checked or uncovered to verify that it meets their "C" minimum. If, however, a student chooses to uncover the grade and it is a "C-", it will no longer count toward the requirement.
- **STATS:**
 - Stats will accept a "P" for the prereq courses in DS for W20.

Given that the U-M spring and summer courses are online, what about online transfer credit from elsewhere?

Here is what we know about online courses taken at other universities **during the COVID-19 epidemic**:

- **Math:** If a course has already been deemed transferable in the transfer credit equivalency database ([Michigan](#), [out of state](#)), then, if taken during the COVID-19 epidemic, the course will transfer regardless of whether it is online or not.
- **Economics:** Through the Spring and Summer terms, the department will accept transfer courses that were taught online. The department plans to revisit this policy in the fall.
- **Stats:** Accepting transfer credit equivalency requests for courses transitioned to remote learning during the current (January-May 2020) and fully online courses during the upcoming Spring/Summer 2020 terms (May-August 2020).
- **Physics:** the Physics Department will be accepting online transfer credit for the Spring/Summer 2020 semesters.

From Dr. RaShonda Flint, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Academic Affairs: “Similar to the University of Michigan, the majority of institutions across the world have moved to delivering courses remotely (online) for Winter, Spring, and Summer 2020, and many have created alternate grading policies that include P/F options. As we acknowledge the flexibility that is needed during this unusual time, the following transfer credit policies will be altered for all courses taken in Winter/Spring/Summer 2020 that are transferred in:

- Any “P” or “S” grade that is noted on a transcript as representing a C-letter grade or higher will be transferred in and accepted as an acceptable grade (subject to usual criteria for degree requirement credit)
- All courses previously evaluated and currently approved to transfer as a direct equivalent in the [Transfer Credit Equivalency \(TCE\)](#) will continue to be accepted even if the course was taken with a different delivery method (i.e. online) and without any additional verification process for students.”

I would like to do a cross-campus transfer (to Engineering, Ross, Kinesiology, etc.). Will my “P” satisfy those requirements?

As of March 24, we know the following about “P” grades accepted to students looking to transfer to another U-M school or college:

- **College of Engineering:** Yes, “P” grades are acceptable.
- **School of Kinesiology:** Yes, “P” grades are acceptable.
- **Ross:** Stay tuned for an answer.

I have a question about grades not answered here.

Please see the [FAQ provided by the Registrar's Office](#).

Honors Conversions

I am doing an Honors conversion in a course this semester. What happens? What are my options?

If you are able to complete your conversion and your faculty member confirms the completion at the end of the term, Honors will ask the Registrar to designate the course as Honors on your transcript as we normally would.

If you are unable to complete your conversion as proposed, and an adjustment makes completion possible, please work with your faculty member to reach an agreement that is satisfactory to both parties.

If you are unable to complete the conversion at all, remember that your final grade in the course is based only on the assessments experienced by all students in that course (i.e., the course syllabus), and that the grades will post as we have recently learned, P or NRC. Not completing a conversion just means taking the “extra” off the table so you can focus exclusively on the required course elements.

If you are unable to complete a conversion under the current circumstances but have made good progress until it became impossible to complete, and you are concerned about the impact of non-completion on your Honors engagement points (i.e., toward the Sophomore Honors Award), know that at the end of the term when faculty are asked to confirm completion, they will have an opportunity to acknowledge your engagement and progress worthy of Honors without meeting the full original terms of the conversion due to unalterable Covid-19 circumstances.

Sophomore Honors Award

Since a prerequisite for the Sophomore Honors Award is achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.4 *with no elective pass/fail*, but all WN20 classes are to be marked P/NRC, must I unmask all my P/NRC grades?

No, you may leave all your courses marked ‘P’ or ‘NRC’ for this term.

Pre-Med and Other Pre-Health

How will medical schools consider the move to pass/no record grades during the covid pandemic? Should I cover my grade with a P?

The Michigan-based medical schools have issued statements with their recommendations about covid-related Pass/No Record Covid grading schemes. [Read their statements here.](#) Keep in mind that the medical school admissions process is holistic meaning that your ability to master complex scientific material will be assessed across your entire academic record. It will never come down to one or two classes taken as a P during this period. If you feel that your performance in a premedical course was negatively affected by the move to remote learning, then that would be a reason to consider covering your grade with a P. Worried about showing that B+ or A-? Don't be, those are solid grades! Want to talk about what to do about a grade of B or lower? Make an appointment to discuss your thought process with an advisor.

Will medical schools accept online courses to meet prerequisites?

As a result of the pandemic, nearly every undergraduate institution has been forced to deliver instruction in an online format. Medical schools recognize this and as such are being quite flexible about previous prohibitions against online coursework.

Honors Theses

My lab closed. Non-essential human subjects research was banned. How can I finish my thesis?

The Honors Program has encouraged all departments and thesis mentors, advisors, and PIs to be as flexible and generous as possible in terms of thesis expectations. High-quality theses, even if they are incomplete, may be honors-worthy. From the perspective of the Honors Program, a satisfactory thesis does not have to offer an original contribution; an honors thesis is a learning experience, in which the

undergraduate scholar demonstrates engagement with appropriate academic literature and appropriate research or artistic methods and tools.

When is my honors thesis due?

Many departments have extended their deadlines for honors thesis submissions; please consult your department. The Honors Program has extended its deadline for theses nominated for college-wide awards to April 21.

What happens to the public presentation of my thesis?

There is no LSA-wide requirement for a public presentation. Some departments have those requirements, some have poster fairs, some have defenses. Most departments have made alternative arrangements, either for virtual/remote versions, or they have dropped that requirement?

Graduation

Will I receive my Honors cords?

We do plan on distributing Honors graduation certificates and other memorabilia. Please stand by for more information. We will also follow university best practices, as U-M looks at alternative ways to celebrate with our seniors.

Will I still graduate on time?

The Honors Auditor is on track to complete all graduation evaluations by the end of May, per the usual schedule. Degrees will be conferred to students' official transcripts on June 3, 2020. If you need electronic documentation that you're on track prior to that, need to change your degree type, or need to change your graduation date, those requests can be sent to honors.auditor@umich.edu.

How will P/NRC grades affect distinction levels?

- Due to COVID-19, Winter 2020 cumulative GPAs will not be included when determining distinction ranges.
- Graduating seniors have until **May 28th** to uncover Winter 2020 grades to have them included in determining eligibility for [Distinction](#). Eligibility for this award will be determined by your cumulative GPA as of the end of that day. If you uncover a grade anytime after May 28 through July 1, your

transcript and cumulative GPA will be updated accordingly but the newly revealed letter grade(s) will not impact your distinction level.