

IB/MCB COVID-19 Updates and FAQs

You can submit additional questions by emailing ibusso@berkeley.edu or mcbuao@berkeley.edu

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Campus Resources (see links for most up to date information)

- Campus News: <https://news.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/>
 - [Student Affairs Updates](#) See here for info on financial aid, [housing](#), dining halls, etc.
 - Technology Needs: Students who do not have access to the technology resources they need are invited to [apply now](#) to the [Student Tech Equity Program \(STEP\)](#) to be considered for a new laptop, Wi-Fi hotspot, or other resources to support their studies in time for Fall semester. Devices will be mailed to students' homes directly. If you have questions, please email ucbstep@berkeley.edu.
 - [University Health Services](#): Virtual appointments and COVID-19 testing are available. For all medical concerns, call the 24/7 advice nurse line at 510-643-7197. For routine appointments, please call (510) 642-2000.
 - [Counseling & Psychological Services](#): All initial meetings will be by phone: 510-642-9494. No drop-in counseling available, students with urgent concerns should call 510-642-9494 to speak with a counselor.
 - [Basic Needs Center](#): Currently open for emergency needs (i.e. food insecurity, homeless, at risk of losing housing, etc.).
 - [Berkeley International Office](#): Remote advising available. [FAQs](#)
 - [Disabled Students Program](#): Still available for online appointments. Email your disability specialist or for new services email dsp@berkeley.edu. For urgent matters call at 510-642-0518.
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How do I meet with an Advisor?

IB/MCB major advisors

We are holding remote advising over Google Meet until further notice. General availability will be posted to <https://ib.berkeley.edu/undergrad#bcal> and <https://mcb.berkeley.edu/undergrad#bcal>.

For advising appointments, visit bit.ly/IBadvising and bit.ly/MCBadvising. You can also email any of the advisors directly with questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any concerns.

Peer advisors

Peer advisors have Zoom appointments, are answering emails and chats, and can connect through our social media pages. See the [IB](#) and [MCB](#) peer pages for more information.

L&S

L&S advising is still available online. For full information see here:

<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/appointments-advice/get-advice>; close to the bottom of the page they have a link to make appointments with a college advisor.

How do I Submit My Form?

IB or MCB

If you have been working with an advisor, please send directly to that advisor. Otherwise send to mcbuao@berkeley.edu or ibusso@berkeley.edu.

L&S

See their website on details on how to send in specific forms:

<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/appointments-advice/get-advice>.

Fall 2021 Policy Reversion

Many policies adjusted during the COVID-19 pandemic revert back to their Fall 2019 states starting in the Fall 2021 semester. IB and MCB major requirements taken in Fall 2021 must be taken for letter grades (except IB 77, which is only offered P/NP). Overall GPA, major GPA, and upper division GPA must be at least 2.0 to declare the IB and MCB majors in Fall 2021. College policies like letter graded essential skills are also back to Fall 2019 standards. Contact an advisor if you have questions.

Summer 2021 Grading Policy Updates

IB and MCB major requirements are accepted as P grades from UC Berkeley courses taken during Summer 2021. Please consult a major advisor for courses taken during summer at other institutions. The 2020-2021 [considerations](#), below, remain in effect for Summer 2021.

Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Grading Policy Updates

College updates are posted to

<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/fall-2020-and-spring-2021-policy-modifications-and-faq>.

Major updates are detailed below.

IB & MCB Major Requirements as P/NP

Due to campus guidance associated with the continued use of remote instruction during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, **the IB and MCB majors will accept P grades to satisfy major requirements taken during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.** Students in L&S have the option to elect P/NP grading for Fall 2020 until December 4, 2020; students may change their grading option for Spring 2021 until April 30, 2021.

Considerations

- A P grade is equivalent to a C- or better. A D- can satisfy an IB or MCB major requirement if the required GPAs are at least 2.0 (see below), but not as an NP grade. Please consult with an advisor for questions about how C/D and P/NP grades are applied.
- A 2.0 overall GPA, major GPA, and upper division major GPA are required to graduate.
- The Academic Progress Report (APR) in CalCentral might not automatically recognize P grades for major requirements. Advisors will be able to manually correct these grades only after final grades are submitted. It's not necessary to submit an error correction request for P grades from Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 satisfying major requirements in the APR.
- At this time, there will not be a note on transcripts explaining the L&S decision to accept P grades. The universal [statement from Spring 2020](#) was related to the default P/NP grade basis.
- The campus will not default grades to P/NP, students must take action to elect P/NP grading for each class for which they want this grading option. L&S students may need to use the [Late Change](#) link in CalCentral after Oct. 30 (fall) or Apr. 2 (spring).
- P grades may account for no more than one-third of the total required units completed at UC Berkeley toward the 120 overall minimum unit requirement. This calculation will include P grades earned in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, although P grades from [Spring 2020 were exempt](#) from the one-third rule.
- Regulations on [course repetition](#) will not be modified for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Students will not receive grade points or units for repeats of earned P grades. Courses with previously earned D+, D, D-, and F grades cannot be repeated as P/NP.
- Students found responsible for academic misconduct in a class are not permitted to drop the class, change the grading option, or request an Incomplete, per [L&S policy](#).
- Students on academic probation or subject to dismissal with the college are not permitted to elect P/NP grading in courses.
- Graduate and professional schools might not accept P grades from Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 for their prerequisite requirements. Spring 2020 admissions

exceptions might not extend to Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. Students are encouraged to reach out to specific programs of interest to clarify their admission policies.

- Students are encouraged to meet with major advisors to discuss their decision to elect P/NP for major requirements.

IB & MCB Major Declaration

Students must normally obtain the following minimum grade point averages (GPAs) to declare the major: 2.0 average overall, 2.0 average for all major requirements (lower and upper division combined), 2.0 average for all upper division major requirements. For Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, students will be permitted to declare the major with the GPAs noted above at less than 2.0 if the student is enrolled in P/NP graded major requirements for the current term that would raise the required GPA(s) to 2.0 if passed with letter grades. Students must still meet the standard course requirements to declare the major.

The 2.0 averages listed above are still required to graduate in IB and MCB, therefore, if a student declares with a major GPA or upper division major GPA less than 2.0, they must increase those GPAs to 2.0 to be eligible for graduation. Students declaring with less than 2.0 major or upper division major GPAs, and with P/NP enrollments, are automatically placed on major probation the following semester (see below).

Example 1. De has completed Math 1A and 1B; Chem 1A, 1AL, 3A, 3AL, and 3B; Biology 1A and 1AL; and is enrolled in Chem 3BL and IB 77A this semester, but has elected P/NP grading in 3BL. De has a major GPA of 1.98 from those completed courses. De is eligible to declare now since he has met the course requirements and a letter grade in Chem 3BL could bring up his major GPA to at least 2.0. De will need to raise his major GPA to 2.0 before graduation by taking some future major requirements for letter grades.

Example 2. Marie has completed both Math, all of Chem, Biology 1A and 1AL, IB 77B, and earned a C- in MCB 102 as her only upper division major requirement. Marie is currently enrolled in Physics 8A as P/NP and Biology 1B for letter grades. Her major GPA is a 2.5, but her upper division major GPA is a 1.7 from MCB 102. Marie is not eligible to declare this semester because she is not enrolled in a course that would allow her to declare if letter graded, i.e., she is not enrolled in an upper division requirement. Her Physics 8A and Biology 1B will count for the major, but Marie won't be eligible to declare until next semester when she takes an upper division requirement.

IB & MCB Major Probation

Students must maintain the following minimum grade point averages (GPAs) to remain in good standing in the major: 2.0 average overall, 2.0 average for all major requirements (lower and upper division combined), 2.0 average for all upper division major requirements. P/NP grades do not affect GPAs and the same 2.0 averages are required to graduate. Students currently on major probation who earn all P grades for major requirements will be continued on probation next semester and not dismissed from the major, but must eventually raise their GPA to graduate. Students currently on major probation should consult with advisors before changing major requirements to P/NP.

IB Honors

Students must graduate with a 3.3 GPA for all major requirements (lower and upper division combined) and a 3.3 average overall to be eligible for honors in the major. Students can elect to take IB H196A and IB H196B as P/NP, but if doing so, P grades in IB H196A and IB H196B are required to graduate with honors. The 3.3 GPA cutoffs will not be adjusted for graduates in Fall 2020 and beyond. Students must be mathematically within range of 3.3 major and overall GPAs in order to register for IB H196A and IB H196B. Honors students can meet with Zac to review the requirements and discuss grading options.

MCB Honors

Seniors may enroll in MCB H196B in their graduating term without the prerequisite of a previous semester of research units (e.g. MCB H196A, MCB 199 etc). Instead, their Principal Investigator must provide written confirmation that the student has been in their lab for a **minimum of one semester before MCB H196B**. Students may elect to take MCB H196B for letter grade or P/NP, but the GPA cutoffs (as listed [here](#)) will **not** be adjusted for honors eligibility.

In order to graduate with MCB honors, students must receive a **letter grade** for a **minimum of 3 upper division major course requirements**. A letter grade in MCB H196B **cannot** be used to fulfill this requirement. MCB Honors students who are approved for lab substitutions cannot use letter graded research (e.g. MCB H196B, MCB 191, Chem 196 etc) to fulfill this minimum.

Spring 2020 and Grading Policy Updates

All major requirements taken Spring 2020 will be accepted with a P grade.

Please also refer to the 3/20/2020 email from Dean Jacobsen and [L&S' FAQ](#) and the [Q&A](#) from Center of Teaching and Learning and the [Q&A](#) from Academic Senate.

A notation on every student's transcript will explain the changes made this semester (even if you elect to have all or some letter grades). Future employers and admissions boards will be seeing similar notations on transcripts from virtually every college and university in the U.S.

MCB Honors

Students enrolled in MCB H196B this semester will graduate with honors if they earn a P grade in all major classes, submit their alternative presentation, and complete their thesis. All emphases symposia will be conducted virtually over zoom at their regular scheduled times. Poster Session presenters will submit virtual posters or an alternate presentation, and have their presentations displayed on our [website](#).

IB Honors

Students enrolled in IB H196B this semester will graduate with honors if they earn a P grade in all major classes, submit their alternative presentation, and complete their thesis. See email from Zac for more information.

IB and MCB Probation

Students currently on major probation within MCB or IB are encouraged to keep their classes P/NP. All students with P grades in all major courses in Spring 20 will not be dismissed from the major. Students graduating in spring and summer will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Med School/Grad School

- AAMC has issued some information on Med School Applications:
<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/coronavirus-covid-19-and-amcas/>
- Career Center webpage with FAQs and COVID-19 resources:
<https://career.berkeley.edu/Health/Covid-19>
- Pre-Health google doc with quick links (similar to the FAQ page):
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-QOB9nUvirQQQR7z4QHRikF-94QHGWNYs4zyk3m1s10>

Classes and Scheduling

Campus updates to instruction are posted on the [registrar's Instruction FAQ](#). Class schedules, modes of instruction, synchronicity, time conflict allowance, reserve capacities, and class notes are viewable at classes.berkeley.edu and from within CalCentral. Future term IB course patterns continue to be updated at <https://ib.berkeley.edu/academics/courses>.

Fall 2020

Most fall classes started and will continue remotely. The campus allowed a limited pilot of outdoor instructional activities for November; see this [article](#) from Oct. 22, 2020 for details. This depended on class size, the ability to keep social distancing, and professor preference. Read these messages from campus for information on the [original fall plans](#) and the [July update](#).

Spring 2021

Decisions are still being made around spring classes. Most spring classes will be offered remotely. A small number of IB and MCB lab sections are tentatively approved for in-person or flexible instruction and are indicated as such in the schedule of classes. This [campus message](#) outlines some of the initial planning and we encourage you to review the registrar's page linked above.

Research in IB/MCB

While there are plans to ramp up research in both departments, this will start slowly to maintain social distancing. Labs may not be able accommodate undergraduate researchers this year. If you are already in a lab, we encourage you to reach out to your PI or lab mentor to find out what plans they have for the next few months and see if there are remote ways you can participate. If you are looking to join a lab, you could offer to review literature or participate in lab meetings. [URAP](#) is still continuing and we encourage you to attend workshops from the [Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships](#).