

Frequently Asked Questions: Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Grade Option

Q1: What is the Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading option? The Pass/No Pass (P/NP) grading option allows you to receive a "P" (Pass) or "NP" (No Pass) on your transcript instead of a traditional letter grade (A+/-, B+/-, C+, D+/-, F). A "P" grade generally signifies satisfactory performance (equivalent to a "C" or better), while an "NP" indicates unsatisfactory performance (equivalent to a "D" or "F").

Q2: How do I select the Pass/No Pass option for a course? You are now able to select P/NP through Banner Self Service. [Click here for step-by-step directions.](#) *If the option is not available, it means the course is not eligible or the deadline has passed. Find the grading options for each course in the course description ([example](#)).

Q3: Is there a deadline to choose the P/NP option? The Pass/No Pass deadline is on the last day of instruction, so students can select their grade mode until 11:59 PM PST on the last day of the course for short courses. Deadline for late start/courses less than the full semester length, and that end before the deadline, is the last date of instruction. It is the student's responsibility to check the critical dates for each of their courses.

Q4: Can I change back to a letter grade after selecting P/NP? Yes. You are able to modify your grade mode throughout the term until the deadline (see Q3).

Q5: Should I talk to a counselor before choosing P/NP? Absolutely, yes. All colleges strongly advise meeting with a counselor before opting for P/NP. A counselor can help you understand the potential impacts on: * **Transfer:** Many four-year universities require letter grades, especially for major courses. * **Financial Aid:** P/NP grades can affect your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). * **Degree/Certificate Requirements:** Some courses within your program may require a specific letter grade. * **Academic Standing:** While P and NP grades do not affect your GPA, they can affect your academic standing (progress notice or dismissal).

Q6: How does P/NP affect my GPA? "P" (Pass) grades do not factor into your Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation at SBCC. "NP" (No Pass) grades also do not affect your GPA, but they can count as units attempted, and may impact your academic standing and pace of progression if you accumulate too many.

Q7: Will a P/NP grade affect my ability to transfer to a four-year university (e.g., CSU or UC)? It can. While some P/NP units may be accepted for transfer, many four-year universities prefer letter grades for major preparation courses requirements. A "P" grade might be considered a "C" or better for course credit, but it won't contribute to the GPA calculated by the transfer institution. Always check the specific transfer requirements of your target university.

Q8: Can all courses be taken as P/NP? No. Not all courses are eligible for the P/NP option. Some courses are only offered as P/NP, while others might not allow it at all, especially those critical to specific majors. Always check the course catalog or class schedule for eligibility.

Q9: Can P/NP grades affect my financial aid eligibility? Yes. Your academic progress, including P/NP grades, can impact your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for financial aid. An "NP" grade means you did not successfully complete the course, which can reduce your completion rate and potentially jeopardize your financial aid.

Q10: What is the main purpose of the P/NP option? The P/NP option is often intended for students who wish to explore subjects outside their major without the pressure of a letter grade affecting their GPA, or for courses where a letter grade is not essential for their academic or career goals. P/NP can also be used to strategically protect or increase your GPA.

Q11: Can I petition to reverse my decision to take a course for a letter grade or P/NP once my final grade is known or posted on my transcript? While this process is reserved for students with rare, extenuating circumstances, a Petition for Waiver of College Regulations requesting the Scholastic Standards Committee review the student's circumstances may be submitted to the Admissions & Records office.

Q12: If I earn a Pass in a course, can I repeat the course for a letter grade in a future semester? You cannot repeat a course in which you earned a C or above or a Pass. However, there is a Petition for Course Repetition that may be considered for specific situations like meeting recency requirements. There are specific, petition-based exceptions for situations like meeting recency requirements for transfer/programs, legally mandated training, changes in industry standards, or documented extenuating circumstances.