STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
Posted 3/20/20 to Stat 001 Piazza
Updated 4/8/20 with Honors clarification

Changes in view of default P/NP grades

Per the administration's announcement, all courses for the Spring 2020 semester will be changed to P/NP by default, with students having the option to change back to a letter grade basis.

We strongly urge students to use the P/NP option for their courses this semester, and we are committed to ensuring that using the recommended P/NP option will not disrupt or complicate your academic plans.

In view of this, we have determined the following policies for how P/NP grades in Spring 2020 courses will be treated with respect to the requirements for the Statistics major and minor. **The following policies only apply to P/NP grades from the Spring 2020 semester, and not to P/NP grades from other semesters.**

Upper-division statistics major requirements: All upper-division requirements of the statistics major, including upper-division core courses, electives, and cluster courses, remain in place as usual. A grade of P in Spring 2020 will count toward satisfying upper-division requirements but will not be factored into calculating the minimum 2.0 overall GPA requirement for upper-division courses.

For declaring the statistics major:
- **Lower-division prerequisites:** The same lower-division prerequisites are still required as usual, but a P in Spring 2020 will be accepted in place of the usual requirement to get a C or above.
- **3.2 UC Math GPA requirement:** The same 3.2 GPA requirement is in place as usual for math courses that satisfy lower-division statistics major requirements, but a P in Spring 2020 will not be factored into calculating the

GPA. If you are completing your LAST of these courses in Spring 2020, and they are the only ones you have taken at UC, then the 3.2 GPA requirement will be waived.

- **134/135/140 requirement:** These courses are still required as usual, but a P in any of these courses in Spring 2020 will be accepted in place of the usual requirement to get a B- or above.

Statistics minor requirements: All lower-division prerequisites remain in place as usual, but a P in Spring 2020 will be accepted in place of the usual requirement to get a C or above. All upper-division requirements remain in place as usual. A grade of P in Spring 2020 will count toward satisfying upper-division requirements but will not be factored into calculating the minimum 2.0 overall GPA requirement for upper-division courses.

Courses completed with No Pass (NP) will not count toward Statistics major or minor requirements.

Honors for students graduating Spring 2020: A grade of P in Stat H195 (honors thesis course) will be accepted this semester in place of a letter grade.

Honors for students graduating Fall 2020: We will waive the 3.3 major GPA requirement for students intending to complete their honors thesis in statistics in Fall 2020. For students intending to complete their honors thesis in later semesters, the 3.3 major GPA requirement remains in place.

Employment and Graduate School

We believe that P grades this semester will not adversely affect your future employment or admission to graduate programs. Berkeley will annotate your transcript explaining the P/NP policy. Many universities have switched to P/NP this term and it is highly likely that almost all will do so soon, some without the letter grade option. Employers and graduate programs will know this and will expect it. Moreover, they will have a hard time interpreting Spring 2020 letter grades as there is (fortunately) no comparable semester.

If you are considering asking one of your current professors for a letter of recommendation, remember that the faculty member already has a record of your work in the first half of the semester. For the rest of the term, we suggest that you do your remaining work well and participate actively on Piazza, Zoom, and the other forums that your classes are using for communication. Your professor will notice and appreciate it. In fact it will give them more to say in their letter than if all they knew was that you got a good grade in their class.

In summary, we urge you to stay with the default P/NP option. We hope that you will be able to set grades aside and focus on learning, as far as is possible in these difficult times.

Thank you for your patience as we all attempt to do the best we can under extraordinary circumstances. You are welcome to post follow-ups if you have questions about the changes described in this message. Also, the Undergraduate Advising team of Denise Yee and Professors Adhikari and Fithian will hold a Zoom session after Spring Break to answer your questions. We don't yet have a date and time; we'll post as soon as we do.