Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Spring 2020 Semester Grading Policy

How will my courses be graded in Spring 2020?

All courses offered in Spring 2020 will be subject to the Pass/No Credit grading system approved by the faculty on April 3, 2020. This includes all courses originally designated as letter-graded, pass/fail, or H/P/L/F.

What about Spring 2020 courses for which my grade has already been posted?

Any grades previously posted for courses you completed earlier in the semester will remain on your transcript.

How will my GPA be calculated?

Both semester and cumulative GPAs will be calculated at the end of each academic term (fall, spring, and summer). This practice has not changed.

How will Pass/No Credit grades affect my GPA?

Spring 2020 courses graded Pass/No Credit will have no effect on your GPA.

How does a No Credit differ from an “F”?

A No Credit or NC is the equivalent of an “F.” However, under our existing grading system, an “F” is calculated into your GPA as a 1.0; a NC will not be included in the calculation of your GPA.

What happens in a course in which I receive No Credit?

A No Credit means you will earn no academic credit for that course. If you receive a No Credit grade in a required course, you must retake that course. If you receive a No Credit grade in an elective course, you may make up those credits in a future semester by retaking the course or taking another course.
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*How will class rankings be calculated?*

Class ranking practices will not change. We will calculate class rankings for full-time first-year students at the end of their first year, for part-time first-year students at the end of their third semester, and for all other students at the end of each fall and spring semester.

*If I am a first-year, what GPA will be used in calculating my class ranking?*

As a result of the adoption of Pass/No Credit grading for the Spring 2020 semester, your class ranking, if you are a full-time first-year student, will be calculated at the end of your first year based on your Fall 2019 GPA. If you are a part-time first-year student, your class ranking will be calculated at the end of your third semester based on your cumulative GPA at that time.

*How will December 2019 graduates be ranked?*

Our class ranking practices have not changed. December 2019 graduates will be ranked collectively with other Class of 2020 graduates.

*How will Pass/No Credit affect the requirement that I take a minimum of 70 letter-graded credits?*

Any courses originally designated as letter-graded in Spring 2020 and graded Pass/No Credit will count as letter-graded for the purposes of meeting the minimum of 70 letter-graded credits. Students will still be required to take a minimum of 88 total credits.

*If my current GPA is below the Academic Disqualification cutoff, or I am currently on Academic Probation, will I be subject to Academic Disqualification after the Spring 2020 semester?*

If you receive grades of Pass in all your Spring 2020 courses, you will not be subject to Academic Disqualification. The review of your academic status will be deferred until completion of the Fall 2020 semester. If your current GPA is below the Academic Disqualification cutoff, or you are currently on Academic Probation, and you receive any No Credit grades in your Spring 2020 courses, you will be subject to Academic Disqualification and you may be eligible for the existing petition and review process.
How will I know if I am subject to Academic Supervision (AS)?

As a result of the adoption of Pass/No Credit grading for Spring 2020, AS status will be determined based on your Fall 2019 GPA. Additionally, if you receive two or more No Credit grades in the Spring 2020 semester, you may be subject to AS regardless of your Fall 2019 GPA. If you are currently a first year student and become subject to Second Year AS, your AS status will be reviewed after the Fall 2020 semester.

If I am subject to Academic Supervision, how will a Pass affect my AS status?

If you are subject to Second Year AS or Third Year AS, you are required to earn a grade of 1.9 or higher in each of the four upper-division bar courses you are required to take. A grade of Pass under the Pass/No Credit grading system for Spring 2020 will be deemed to meet this 1.9 requirement.

Will I be eligible to receive a CALI Award?

Subject to approval from CALI, we will recommend that professors continue to award CALI awards to the highest performing student in each of the classes where CALI awards are normally made.

Will I be eligible for Latin honors?

Yes. Latin honors will still be awarded as set forth in the Academic Rules.

Will I be eligible for the Order of the Coif?

We believe that students graduating in May 2020 will still be eligible for Order of the Coif membership. We need to confirm that the Order has suspended its ordinary requirement that a student is eligible for consideration only if 75% of the student’s coursework be in graded courses.

How will Summer 2020 classes be graded?

Although some or all Summer 2020 classes may be taught remotely, they will be graded on the standard letter-graded, pass/fail, or H/P/L/F systems. Refer to the course descriptions for each course’s specific grading designation.
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*How will the grading change be explained on my transcript?*

All transcripts will include an annotation reflecting that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Spring 2020 grading was mandatory Pass/No Credit, except for grades previously posted for courses completed early in the semester. All courses taken in Spring 2020 will be reflected on your transcript.

*How will the grading policy affect my scholarship renewal?*

The determination of the renewability of your scholarship award will be based on your cumulative GPA, without consideration of the Pass/No Credit grades you receive this semester. We will be seeking to reallocate resources in order to be able to provide at least partial scholarship assistance to select students whose scholarships may not be renewable based on their current GPAs, as well as to offer scholarship awards to students whose academic performance has been exceptional.

If you are a 1L and do not meet the GPA requirement for scholarship renewal for your 2L year, you will remain eligible to regain your full scholarship award for your 3L year based on your 2L performance. If you are a 2L, your eligibility to retain your full scholarship award for the 2020-21 academic year will be based on your cumulative GPA.

*How will this affect my opportunity to join a law journal?*

Due to the change to Pass/No Credit grading, San Diego Law Review and San Diego International Law Journal will not offer automatic ranking-based invitations based on first-year grades at the end of Spring 2020. The Journal of Climate and Energy Law does not issue automatic invitations. All three journals will therefore rely on the write-on competition to invite new members. More information about the write-on competition can be found [here](#).

*Does the grading policy apply to LLM and MSLS degree students?*

The Pass/No Credit policy applies to all students.

*What happens if I am unable to complete my coursework or take my exams because of the COVID-19 pandemic?*

Your situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with consideration given to accommodate illness, emergency circumstances, and other unexpected hardships.