

From: [Cherysa P Cortez](#)
To: [Christiane Weirauch](#); [Stefano Vidussi](#); [Goldberry Long](#); [Jason Weems](#); [Jason Stajich](#); [Erith Jaffe-Berg](#); [Randolph C Head](#); [Dmitri Maslov](#); "leonid.pryadko@ucr.edu"; [Graddean](#); [Shaun Bowler](#); [Vpdue](#); [Bracken Janette Dailey](#); [Sheldon Xiangdong Tan](#); [Jingsong Zhang](#)
Cc: [Dylan Rodriguez](#); [Beth Beatty](#); [Leondra Michelle Jacobs](#); [Sarah Miller](#)
Subject: RE: (Academic Council) Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 8:01:00 AM
Attachments: [kkb-senate-divisions-guidance-grading-options-summer-2020..pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good Morning,

Resending to include Undergraduate Admissions Chair Sheldon Tan on email. Also, added the Committee on Preparatory Education (CPE) and CPE Chair Jingsong Zhang for the committee's consideration. (Thanks Beth!)

All best,

[Cherysa Cortez](#) | 951.827.6154 | cherysac@ucr.edu

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From: Cherysa P Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:38 PM

To: [Christiane Weirauch](mailto:christiane.weirauch@ucr.edu); [Stefano Vidussi](mailto:stefano.vidussi@ucr.edu); [Goldberry Long](mailto:goldberry.long@ucr.edu); [Jason Weems](mailto:jasonweems@ucr.edu); [Jason Stajich](mailto:jasonst@ucr.edu); [Erith Jaffe-Berg](mailto:erith.jaffe-berg@ucr.edu); [Randolph C Head](mailto:randolph.head@ucr.edu); [Dmitri Maslov](mailto:maslov@ucr.edu); 'leonid.pryadko@ucr.edu' <leonid.pryadko@ucr.edu>; [Graddean](mailto:graddean@ucr.edu); [Shaun Bowler](mailto:shaun.bowler@ucr.edu); [Vpdue](mailto:vpd@ucr.edu); [Bracken Janette Dailey](mailto:bracken.dailey@ucr.edu)

Cc: [Dylan Rodriguez](mailto:dylanr@ucr.edu); [Cherysa P Cortez](mailto:cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu); [Beth Beatty](mailto:beth.beatty@ucr.edu); [Leondra Michelle Jacobs](mailto:leondra.jacobs@ucr.edu); [Sarah Miller](mailto:sarah.miller@ucr.edu)

Subject: FW: (Academic Council) Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

To: **Senate Workgroup on COVID-19 Instructional Contingencies**
Committee on Courses
Committee on Educational Policy
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions
Graduate Council
[Committee on Preparatory Education](#)

Please see the attached and below that I forward on behalf of Academic Senate Division Chair Dylan Rodriguez.

For Senate standing committees - Chair Rodriguez requests that your committees consider the attached based on your respective committee charges and provide your comments directly to him by Friday, May 15, 2020 at 12 noon at dylanr@ucr.edu in time for the next Senate Workgroup on COVID-19 Instructional Contingencies meeting with campus Administrative leadership.

For members of the Workgroup - The attached will be the primary agenda item during the next meeting. You will soon receive date, time, and Zoom information.

Kindest regards,

[Cherysa Cortez](mailto:Cherysa.Cortez@ucr.edu) | 951.827.6154 | cherysac@ucr.edu

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From: Michael LaBriola <Michael.LaBriola@ucop.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8:29 AM

To: UCACOUN-L@LISTSERV.UCOP.EDU

Cc: Brenda Abrams <Brenda.Abrams@ucop.edu>; Kenneth Feer <Kenneth.Feer@ucop.edu>; Joanne Miller <Joanne.Miller@ucop.edu>; Fredye Harms <Fredye.Harms@ucop.edu>; April de Stefano <adestefano@senate.ucla.edu>; Cherysa P Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu>; debra.blake@senate.ucsb.edu; Edwin Arevalos <emarevalo@ucdavis.edu>; Fatima Paul <fpaul@ucmerced.edu>; Jocelyn Banaria <jocelynbanaria@berkeley.edu>; Kate Brigman <kate.brigman@uci.edu>; Matthew Mednick <mmednick@ucsc.edu>; Ray Rodriguez <rrodriguez@ucsd.edu>; Todd Giedt <todd.giedt@ucsf.edu>

Subject: (Academic Council) Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

CHAIRS OF ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISIONS

On behalf of Academic Council Chair Bhavnani, I enclose her letter transmitting a UCEP letter providing guidance on the issues to keep in mind when considering whether to extend divisional flexibility for grading options to all summer sessions in 2020. The text of her letter is pasted below and in the attached PDF, along with the UCEP letter.

Thanks very much,

Michael LaBriola
Assistant Director
Academic Senate
510.987.0162

May 4, 2020

ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS

Re: Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In March 2020, in response to the rapid pivot to remote learning under COVID-19, the Academic Council issued a letter from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) providing guidance to divisions around the use of the P/NP grading option during Spring 2020. Council has endorsed a new UCEP letter providing guidance on the issues to keep in mind when considering whether to extend divisional flexibility for grading options to all summer sessions in 2020. Council echoes UCEP's statement that the guidance does not imply support for any particular option or divisional decision about P/NP. UCEP's letter states:

UCEP recognizes that there may be reasons for extending flexibility at least for some students but also cautions that potential unintended consequences should be weighed carefully by each Division.

Some believe that the factors motivating the need for flexibility are still relevant during Summer 2020, while others suggest that students are now informed about remote instruction, and the need for flexibility is much less. I also remind Divisions, as stated in the letter from UCEP, that the policies that cover the use of P/NP are almost entirely under Divisional control.

I ask that Senate Division Chairs send the UCEP document to respective Committees on Education Policy/Undergraduate Councils for follow up.

Sincerely,



Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: UCEP Chair Serences
Senate Directors
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Academic Senate



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
Telephone: (510) 987-9303
Email: kum-kum.bhavnani@ucop.edu

*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

May 4, 2020

ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS

Re: Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In March 2020, in response to the rapid pivot to remote learning under COVID-19, the Academic Council issued a letter from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) providing guidance to divisions around the use of the P/NP grading option during Spring 2020. Council has endorsed a new UCEP letter providing guidance on the issues to keep in mind when considering whether to extend divisional flexibility for grading options to all summer sessions in 2020. Council echoes UCEP's statement that the guidance does not imply support for any particular option or divisional decision about P/NP. UCEP's letter states:

UCEP recognizes that there may be reasons for extending flexibility at least for some students but also cautions that potential unintended consequences should be weighed carefully by each Division.

Some believe that the factors motivating the need for flexibility are still relevant during Summer 2020, while others suggest that students are now informed about remote instruction, and the need for flexibility is much less. I also remind Divisions, as stated in the letter from UCEP, that the policies that cover the use of P/NP are almost entirely under Divisional control.

I ask that Senate Division Chairs send the UCEP document to respective Committees on Education Policy/Undergraduate Councils for follow up.

Sincerely,



Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: UCEP Chair Serences
Senate Directors
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Academic Senate



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)
John Serences, Chair
jserences@ucsd.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200
Phone: (510) 987-9466
Fax: (510) 763-0309

Monday, May 4, 2020

RE: Guidance about P/NP grading for Summer Session(s) 2020

Dear Kum-Kum,

In March 2020, UCEP provided guidance around the use of the P/NP grading option during Spring 2020 in response to the rapid pivot to remote learning (link [here](#)). Below, we offer Divisions guidance on issues to consider when deciding whether to extend P/NP flexibility to 2020 summer sessions.

We would emphasize that UCEP does not hereby endorse a particular option but aims to help decision makers at the campus level.

Recommendation:

UCEP recognizes that there may be reasons for extending flexibility, at least for some students, but also cautions that potential unintended consequences should be weighed carefully by each Division.

As outlined in the Appendix, the policies that govern the use of P/NP grades are almost entirely under Divisional control.

The one exception is [SR782](#), which sets an upper limit on the number of courses that can be taken P/NP, with campuses adopting either a 25% or a 33% upper limit (see Appendix, point 1).

Examples of Campus Actions:

At several campuses (UCSD, UCB, UCD), local regulations were adopted to exclude P/NP courses taken in Spring 2020 from the numerator and the denominator when calculating the percentage of graded courses.

At UCM, P/NP courses taken under the [Emergency Course Continuity](#) (ECC) protocol can, by petition, be excluded from the calculation of the percentage of P/NP courses (policy [here](#)). The delineation of terms into ECC and non-ECC categories has several features: (1) there is clear messaging about when flexibility is to be granted and when campuses should revert to operating under previously established policies, and (2) this mechanism may be useful during extended campus closures due to wildfires, power outages, or other disasters.

Whether the exclusion of courses from P/NP totals is done proactively or by petition, these policies allow students who opt to take courses P/NP in the current emergency situation to avoid exceeding the upper limit imposed by [SR782](#).

ELWR:

A [one-time policy exception](#) was requested by UCEP/UCOPE for allowing a P grade to satisfy the ELWR (which normally must be satisfied with a C or better, not a C- per SR636). System-wide Academic Council endorsed this one-time exception on April 14, 2020. UCEP and UCOPE recommend Divisional control over extending this flexibility during any term where flexibility around the P/NP grading option is also adopted. We further recommend that, on campuses where a grade of C- qualifies as a passing grade, a course taken for a letter grade would also satisfy the ELWR if a C- or better was earned. On campuses where a grade of C qualifies as the passing grade (P), no change is needed; a letter grade of C or better (P) continues to satisfy the ELWR.

Other considerations:

End of flexibility to use the P/NP grading option: At the discretion of each Division, it may be reasonable to expect flexibilities to remain in place until students have a chance to acclimate to remote instruction or until students again have the option of attending in-person classes. However, not all students may be able to start attending in-person classes at the same time, so each Division's decision about extending flexibility should take this into account.

More generally, the present crisis highlights the need to work towards developing policies that don't require adoption of special emergency measures every time a disruption occurs, but instead account for shifts in instructional delivery modes as expected periodic occurrences.

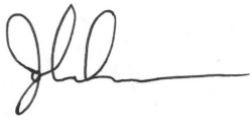
Potential consequences of P/NP grades: As outlined in UCEP's March memo, there are potential consequences for students who opt to take courses using the P/NP option. These include but are not limited to: financial aid (particularly from the VA), problems with later admission to professional/graduate/medical school, and problems staying in or re-obtaining good standing due to a low GPA.

Academic probation and disqualification: The conditions for academic good-standing and disqualification are covered in [SR900.A](#):

“An undergraduate student is subject to disqualification for further registration in the University (a) if at the end of any term the student's grade-point average for that term is less than 1.5 (however, see paragraph (E) below), or (b) if the student has completed two consecutive terms on academic probation without achieving a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 as provided above.”

Thus, a student is subject to disqualification from future enrollment after two subsequent terms out of good standing. However, this determination is ultimately under Divisional control so there is flexibility (per recent UCEP/UCRJ consultation). [SR902.C](#) further underscores faculty discretion over disqualification. That said, some caution may be warranted: given that P/NP grades cannot impact a student's GPA (SR782), allowing students to take a significant proportion of their courses P/NP might have long-term implications for their ability to raise their overall GPA before graduation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Serences', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Serences,
Chair UCEP
jserences@ucsd.edu

Appendix

Policies that govern the use of the P/NP grading option.

- 1) Limit on number of P/NP courses of total course units. Some campuses have adopted a limit of one-fourth of total units and others have adopted a limit of one-third of total units graded as P/NP. This policy follows from [SR782](#), which states that:

“Under such regulations as each Division may determine, a student in good standing is authorized to undertake up to an average of one course per term on a Passed or Not Passed basis. A grade of Passed shall be awarded only for work which would otherwise receive a grade of C or better. Units thus earned shall be counted in satisfaction of degree requirements.”

Analysis: The policy states that students can “undertake up to an average of one course per term on a Passed or Not Passed basis”. On most campuses, this would imply an upper limit of 25% of courses taken with the P/NP grading option (e.g. 1 out 4 courses at a quarter campus). However, some Divisions allow for 33% of courses to be taken P/NP, so there is precedent for some flexibility in the interpretation of SR782.

- 2) Departments may not allow P/NP for courses that count for your major.

Analysis: This is a local Division/department decision, it is not set by system-wide Senate Regulations.

- 3) A student must opt for P/NP within the first four weeks of a quarter.

Analysis: This deadline is at the discretion of Divisions, and semester campuses have a different deadline in place.

- 4) A student’s course work must be equivalent to C- or better to receive a P.

Analysis: The determination for setting the threshold at a C or a C- is set at the Division level based on regulation 778.C.1.:

“For Passed/Not Passed grading, determination of whether the minimum standard of performance for a grade of P shall be the grade of C or C- shall be made by the Division.”

However, if a Division wishes to change their threshold for a passing grade (e.g. from a C to a C-), the request needs to be certified by UCRJ under 778.C.

“Modifications of a Divisional grading system that are authorized by subsections (1) through (2) below shall be submitted to the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction for certification of consonance with the Code of the Academic Senate. If certification is received, the proposed modifications become effective as provided by Divisional action. (En 9 May 84)


1. For Passed/Not Passed grading, determination of whether the minimum standard of performance for a grade of P shall be the grade of C or C- shall be made by the Division.
2. For Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading, determination of whether the minimum standard of performance for a grade of S shall be the grade of B or B- shall be made by the Division.”

- 5) P/NP courses count for unit requirements but not toward your GPA. This is set by SR 782:
Units thus earned [P/NP] shall be counted in satisfaction of degree requirements, but such courses shall be disregarded in determining a student's grade-point average.



May 12, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Stefano Vidussi, Chair 
Committee on Educational Policy

Re: Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

The Committee on Educational Policy reviewed the guidance from Academic Council on UCEP on Divisional flexibility for grading options for Summer 2020, which suggests actions and precautions for Summer 2020 that are in line with the (emergency) regulations in place at UCR for Spring 2020. The Committee is supportive of the spirit of the document.



May 15, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Jingsong Zhang, Chair
Committee on Preparatory Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular box. The signature appears to read "Jingsong Zhang".


Re: Divisional Guidance for Grading in Summer 20

The Committee on Preparatory Education reviewed the Divisional guidance for grading in Summer 20 and members had mixed opinions on the guidance. Members not in favor of extending the P/NP grading option for Summer Session cited potential unintended consequences. Members stated that students should be well aware of remote instruction for Summer Session and still have the option for P/NP grading per UCR policy. Alternatively, those members in favor of allowing P/NP grading for Summer Session courses noted that there still may be hardship for students well into the summer as they adjust to remote instruction so flexibility for grading is desirable.



May 14, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Randolph C. Head, Chair 
Committee on Courses

Re: Division Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

Members of the Committee on Courses expressed support for continuing flexible accommodation for students who sought permission to take certain courses S/NC rather than for a grade. They noted that the same emergency substitution of remote methods for normal teaching would affect the Summer 2020 courses, and that in many cases, future review of student transcripts would include the awareness of the extraordinary circumstances that affected this period. In addition, failing to maintain consistent policies with Spring 2020, since similar teaching conditions applied, seemed potentially confusing to students, as well as potentially unfair.

As for Spring 2020, the Committee places a high value on continued effective advising of students considering this option. Given the potential for unintended consequences of S/NC grading for various categories of students, informed choice by students should be our ideal as long as these policies are in effect.

Finally, some concern arose because the letter from the systemwide Senate explicitly stated that:

"As outlined in the Appendix, the policies that govern the use of P/NP grades are almost entirely under Divisional control.

The one exception is SR782, which sets an upper limit on the number of courses that can be taken P/NP, with campuses adopting either a 25% or a 33% upper limit (see Appendix, point 1)."


In light of this statement, it is not clear whether we can continue UCR's Spring 2020 choice to amend divisional rules so that S/NC courses taken in Spring 2020 *do not count* toward the 33% limit established by divisional rules. The systemwide Senate concedes that "'there is precedent for some flexibility in the interpretation of SR782", and the circumstances of April 2020, when the mode of instruction and conditions of student work changed abruptly *after* registration had taken place, appear to justify such flexibility. In Summer 2020 and potentially Fall and beyond, however, students know that remote instruction is a possibility.

We recommend that the Division review this issue with care before we make decisions on SR788/Division regulation R1.2.2.



May 15, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sheldon Tan, Chair 
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: Guidance for Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020

The Committee on Undergraduate admissions reviewed the guidance for Divisional flexibility for grading options for Summer 2020 at their May 15, 2020 meeting and is supportive of the campus continuing with the same grading options as the campus did for the Spring 2020 Quarter.

GRADUATE COUNCIL

May 21, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Jason Stajich, Chair
Graduate Council



**Re: (Academic Council) Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options
for Summer 2020**

Graduate Council reviewed the document providing guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Summer 2020 at their May 21, 2020 meeting. The Council did not feel the document accounts for graduate students other than the unconsidered consequences that could impact TAs and therefore felt allowing flexibility during this time is important.