No Pass Grading Option – Graduate Students

Otis College of Art and Design has adopted a temporary No Pass grading option for graduate courses impacted by the transition to on-line instruction, effective immediately for the spring 2020 semester. You may elect to change your method of final grading to No Pass (NP) instead of Fail (F) through the last day of the term, which is May 5. You may choose to take none, some or all of your courses as NP instead of F this term only.

This policy was created in consultation with several stakeholder groups, including the Provost’s Office, Department Chairs and Academic Directors, Academic Advising, the Registrar, Enrollment Management, and the President.

- A grade of P or LP indicates the graduate student has passed the class. A grade of NP indicates the student has not passed the class.
- If the student receives a grade of NP, the course will not count toward academic progress and graduation requirements.
- An NP will not result in Probationary or Dismissal status – unlike the standard Fail (F). A Fail (F) does result in Probationary or Dismissal status.
- Deadline to submit requests to change your grading option to No Pass is the last day of the semester – May 5.

Here is the link to the Change of Grade Option form:

https://otiscollege.formstack.com/workflows/change_grading_option

Details about the No Pass grading option:

1. What is No Pass?

The college recognizes this as a very unusual semester and wants to expand your grading options to help mitigate anxiety about the transition to a changed course delivery. No Pass is a way of taking a class without worrying about being placed on Probation or being dismissed. Many students choose this option because it allows them to take courses without worrying about how their performance in these courses will affect their Probationary status.

2. Will I still receive the credits if I earn a No Pass grade?

No.

3. Will courses for which I receive an NP count toward my degree requirements?

No.

4. What is the benefit of choosing the NP option?
Unlike an F, receiving an NP will not result in probation or academic dismissal.

5. Is the No Pass option available for all courses this spring 2020 semester?

Yes, as long as you elect the NP option by the deadline of May 5. If you do not elect NP by May 5, you will receive an F for a course. To elect NP you must inform the Registration Office that you choose to take the course NP by completing the Change of Grading Option form.

6. Do I need department approval to change my grading mode from an F to NP?

No. You do not need the department’s approval to change your course grading option from Fail to an NP. But it may be to your benefit to consult with your department’s academic advisor if you are unsure or have questions about which grading option to choose.

7. Will the instructor of the course know I’m taking the class for a NP?

No. If you have submitted the Change of Grade Option form, the Registration Office will assign you a P, LP or NP depending upon the grade the instructor submits for you. If you earned a grade of Fail, your transcript will show “NP”.

8. Can I just tell my instructor that I want an NP grade?

No. Your instructor will continue to use the standard grading system (P/LP/Fail) and the change will be made by the registrar’s office when final grades are posted.

9. If I choose to take the course as NP, what do I have to do?

Complete the Change of Grade Option form by the last day of the semester - May 5th. Below is the link to the form and the form is also posted on the Dashboard.

https://otiscolege.formstack.com/workflows/change_grading_option

11. If I get an NP in a course, can I still continue on to the next course in the Fall?

An NP is not a passing grade. Failure to receive a passing grade (NP) in any of your courses this spring may impact how you will progress in your studies this fall. If you receive an NP in your course(s) it is required that you speak with your program advisor regarding your course requirements and options for the Fall 2020.

12. What if I plan to graduate this May?

An NP is not a passing grade. You must pass all required courses and earn the required number of credits to graduate. If you are unsure about how an NP could impact your ability to graduate this semester, please speak with your program advisor.