PROPOSED REVISION OF DAVIS DIVISION REGULATION A545:
Passed or Not Passed Grading

Submitted on behalf of Division Chair Ahmet Palazoglu.

Endorsed by Executive Council.

Rationale: The deadline to change a grading mode between letter grading and Passed/Not Passed (P/NP) grading has historically been set by informal agreement among the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, the deans and faculty executive committees of the undergraduate colleges, and the Office of the University Registrar. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Davis Division assumed governing responsibility for this deadline, which is now proposed for formal inclusion in Davis Division Regulations. Simultaneously, upon review of a proposal from the Associated Students of the University of California, Davis (ASUCD), this deadline is proposed to move from the historical 25th day of instruction for quarters (15th day of instruction for summer sessions) to the 40th day of instruction for quarters (20th day of instruction for summer sessions). This two-week shift allows students greater flexibility in their grading modes and reduces the need for students to petition for late approval.

Proposed Revision: Davis Division Regulation A545 shall be amended as follows. Deletions are indicated by strikeout; additions are in bold type.

A545. Passed or Not Passed Grading

(A) A regular undergraduate student in good standing may opt to take specific courses on a Passed (P) or Not Passed (NP) basis up to the limits specified in Davis Division Regulation A545(B). (Am. by mail ballot 5/7/74)

1) For spring quarter 2020, summer session(s) 2020, fall quarter 2020, winter quarter 2021, spring quarter 2021, and summer session(s) 2021, an undergraduate student not in good standing may opt to take specific courses on a Passed (P) or Not Passed (NP) basis up to the limits specified in the Davis Division Regulation A545(B) via petition and approval by the dean’s office. (En. 9/1/2020, Am. 9/1/2021)

(B) Not more than one-third of the units taken in residence on the Davis campus and presented for graduation by an undergraduate student may be in courses taken on a Passed or Not Passed basis, including courses graded in accordance with Davis Division Regulations A545(C) and A545(D). The faculty of any college or school on the Davis campus may establish regulations that are more restrictive regarding use of the Passed or Not Passed option by its students.

1) Spring quarter 2020, summer session(s) 2020, fall quarter 2020, winter quarter 2021, spring quarter 2021, and summer session(s) 2021 units taken Passed/Not Passed are exempt from the one-third calculation in both the numerator (Passed/Not Passed units taken) and the denominator (total units taken). (En. 9/1/2020, Am. 9/1/2021)
(C) With approval of the appropriate department or division and of the appropriate committees on courses of instruction, the grades assigned by instructors in specific undergraduate courses may be, for undergraduate students, Passed or Not Passed only and, for graduate students, Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory only.

(D) Each special study, directed group study, or other variable-unit undergraduate course shall be graded for undergraduate students on a Passed or Not Passed only basis and for graduate students on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory only basis unless specific approval for the use of a letter grade is given by the appropriate committees on courses of instruction.

(E) For courses being undertaken on a Passed or Not Passed basis, the grade of Passed shall be awarded only for work which otherwise would receive a grade of C- or better. Units thus earned shall be counted in satisfaction of degree requirements, but courses undertaken on a Passed or Not Passed basis shall be disregarded in determining a student’s grade point average.

(F) The deadline to elect Passed/Not Passed grading is the 40th day of instruction in a quarter and the 20th day of instruction in a six-week summer session.

(G) After the Passed/Not Passed deadline and before the close of business on the last day of instruction for the quarter, or, for summer sessions (excluding special session), before the close of business on the last day of instruction in the fifth week of the session, a grade mode change may be granted via petition and approval by a student’s dean’s office.

(H) To change the grading mode after close of business on the last day of instruction for the quarter, or, for summer sessions (excluding special session), after the close of business on the last day of instruction in the fifth week of the session, the student must submit a petition to the Davis Division Grade Changes Committee.