

August 18, 2020
Academic and Instructional Flexibilities for Fall Quarter 2020
Sent to Academic Senate and Academic Federation Members

Dear Colleagues,

The Academic Senate has approved several academic and instructional flexibilities for Fall 2020. This information will soon be communicated to the broader campus community, and it is also available on the Academic Senate's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Final Exams

For Fall 2020, the [requirement](#) that instructors of undergraduate courses hold final exams is waived. Instructors will decide if their course will have a final exam, and that information must be provided to students in the syllabus/course outline by the end of the first week of classes. This [waiver](#) is currently approved only for Fall 2020.

As part of this waiver, the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI) emphasized that final exams are used to demonstrate cumulative (or comprehensive) understanding of course materials. COCI encourages instructors to explore alternative assessment methods that will achieve similar goals, as appropriate for their courses. Some examples of alternative assessment methods can be found on the [Keep Teaching](#) website.

Undergraduate Passed/Not Passed (P/NP) Grading

- P/NP deadline extension: The deadline for undergraduate students to opt for P/NP grading in a course, or to revert back to letter grading, has been extended to the last day of instruction for Fall 2020 (December 11, 2020).
- Undergraduate students not in good academic standing: For Fall 2020, an undergraduate student not in good academic 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\(B\)](#) via petition and approval by their dean's office.
- Whether courses can be taken P/NP for a major during Fall 2020, as well as policies regarding college P/NP unit caps for graduation, will be determined by each college.

Graduate Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Grading

- S/U deadline extension: Graduate students will have until the last day of instruction (December 11, 2020) to submit a Grading Option Change request form for Fall 2020.
- Maximum S/U course exception: Current Academic Senate policy ([DDR A546.A](#)) limits the number of optional S/U courses allowed each term. For Fall 2020, a graduate student in good standing (or who receives approval from the Office of Graduate Studies) is authorized to undertake, in addition to courses graded on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory only basis, not more than two courses in each session on an optional Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) basis.

Thank you for your attention to these flexibilities and your ongoing efforts to prepare for Fall quarter during these most unusual and challenging circumstances. Please do not hesitate to contact me with

questions. Professor Richard Tucker will take over as Chair of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate on September 1, 2020.

Best,
Kristin

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