

P/F Grading in Math Classes for Non-Math Majors Spring 2020

As we approach the May 1 deadline for deciding on P/F grading, the Mathematics Department would like to offer the following P/F grading advice. While the Department did not make any math class P/F grading ineligible, we are definitely concerned with preparedness for the next course in a sequence. Any advisor discussing P/F grading with a student needing to take a “next math class” should consult with the instructor of the student’s current math class and take into consideration the particular grade restrictions for progression in certain math class sequences.

If the student needs to complete a sequence where there are one or more C- or better grade requirements to progress, then:

- If the student is likely to earn a P for D-, D, or D+ coursework simply due to their current trajectory, withdrawing (W) is strongly recommend over a P/F grade.
- If the student is likely to earn a P for D-, D, or D+ coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but would probably have done better under normal circumstances, a P/F grade could be an option.
- If the student is likely to earn a P for C- or better coursework, P/F grading could be an option, but advisors need to take into account additional considerations like the P/F grade impact on GPA, financial aid, athletics/other eligibility, and so on.

There are a couple procedural notes that are important to keep in mind:

1. The P/F grading contract for Spring 2020 has a signature space for Department Chair at the bottom. **The Department Chair in question is the chairperson of the student’s major/minor department, NOT the Mathematics department.**
2. A grade of P earned in a prerequisite course during Spring 2020 (and only Spring 2020) does allow a student to progress to the next course in a sequence requiring C- or better. However, since math classes do build sequentially, a P grade for D-, D, or D+ coursework does not necessarily mean a student is ready for the next class in a sequence (as described above).

Finally, a brief summary of the grade requirements for some of the common math classes/sequences is given on the following page.

Summary of Grade Requirements for Some Common Math Classes/Sequences

Note: In what follows, MAT 100/P means MAT 100 or MAT 100P.

The following sequences have no grade restriction for progression:

- MAT 100/P $\xrightarrow{\text{no restriction}}$ MAT 103
- MAT 100/P $\xrightarrow{\text{no restriction}}$ MAT 105
- MAT 100/P $\xrightarrow{\text{no restriction}}$ MAT 107

The following sequences require a C- or better to progress:

- MAT 100/P $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 108
- MAT 100/P $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 112
- MAT 105 $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 106
- MAT 112 $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 120, MAT 122, MAT 125, or MAT 139
- MAT 122 $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 150 $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 151 $\xrightarrow{\text{C- or better}}$ MAT 252

As noted on the previous page, for courses requiring a C- or better in a prerequisite course, a P grade for D-, D, or D+ coursework does not mean the student is prepared for the for course in question. In the interests of the student, some kind of determination needs to be made about the likelihood of success in the “next class”. Advisors should consult with the course instructor.