

## **General advice on using the Pass/No Credit option**

We understand that these are stressful times for those of you hoping to pursue professional schools with highly competitive admissions. We understand that the option of Pass/No Credit is appealing and appropriate in some situations. As a general rule, however, the HPO is not recommending that students use the Pass/No Credit option for classes in which they are earning a C, or better.

The Pass/No Credit option should not be used to cosmetically improve the appearance of your transcript by keeping certain grades “hidden” with a P. Most professional schools, such as medical and dental schools, will assume that the Pass was a C. Therefore, if you earned a C, taking the P it is not changing anything except a minor impact on your GPA. Grades during an extraordinarily challenging semester, will not be the thing that determines your admission or rejection to a professional school. And, remember, all students across the nation are being impacted by COVID-19 and professional schools will be aware of this as they review applications.

We encourage you to use common sense when considering use of the option. If you are normally an A and B student and wind up with some Cs this semester, that is okay. Again, these are unprecedented times and grades from this semester will be viewed within that context. You have other semesters, past and future, to represent the type of grades you normally achieve in normal circumstances. Even if you tend more toward the B or C range on your transcript, your grades then would be within normal range and an upward trend would not be expected this semester.

Remember, professional schools will likely want to know at some point how you were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Think about how you will discuss that when you are thinking about using the Pass/No Credit option.

Of course, many of you are experiencing significant hardships during this time and the policy is really meant for you. If you feel that you are one of those students, you should definitely reach out to discuss the pros and cons of using the option with an academic advisor.

Find academic support here: <https://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-support>  
More information on the Pass/No Credit option can be found [here](#).