Columbia College
Pass/D/Fail Policy

What is the Pass/D/Fail policy for Columbia College?

Pass/D/Fail (P/D/F) is a grading option available to Columbia College students designed to encourage students to take courses of interest to them outside their field of specialization. Since the "policy always follows the student," Columbia College students may also choose this option for courses taken in other schools at Columbia (i.e. SEAS, Barnard, etc.).

How exactly does the P/D/F grading option work?

While the P/D/F grading option is initiated by the student, it is ultimately a function managed by the Registrar. Course instructors are not notified of students who have selected the P/D/F grading option and will evaluate student work on a grading scale of A to F. Therefore, students are expected to meet all course requirements. At the end of the semester, final grades of C- and higher are automatically converted to a Pass, or a grade of P. After final grades have been posted, Students can select the "P/D/F grading" tab in SSOL to see the original grade. Students are permitted to uncover a grade of Pass up until the end of the change of program period of the following semester. Requests to uncover a grade of Pass may be submitted through an electronic request form on the "P/D/F grading" webpage in SSOL. All requests must be submitted on or prior to the designated deadline. Once a student has chosen to uncover a grade, the Pass cannot be reinstated.

How will my degree progress and G.P.A. be affected?

While the course credits may be applied to general degree requirements, the grade of P will not impact a student's grade point average. However, students who select the P/D/F grading option but fail to meet the minimum grade requirement of C- will receive a final grade of D or F. While students cannot earn credit for a grade of F, the grade of D is still considered passing, and course credits may be applied toward general degree requirements. A grade of D or F will remain on the transcript and will be factored into a student's grade point average.

How many courses may be taken for P/D/F?

In addition to any courses that are given only on a Pass/Fail basis (i.e. Physical Education courses), students registered in Columbia College during the regular academic year may elect **one course each semester** with a grading option of P/D/F. Students who do not utilize both P/D/F options during the academic year may elect, in the summer immediately following, one Summer Term course with a grading option of P/D/F.

Which courses are NOT eligible to be taken for P/D/F?

Courses used to meet the Columbia College **Core requirements** (except those only given on a Pass/Fail basis) may not be taken P/D/F. All courses used to meet the requirements of a **major** or a **concentration**, including related courses, are also excluded from this option. Some departments allow the first course taken by the student in his or her eventual major to be counted with a Pass grade.

Because success in learning a foreign language is dependent on the full engagement of all students enrolled in a language course, all terms of **language instruction/conversation** courses, whether being used toward fulfillment of the Core foreign language requirement or not, must be taken for a letter grade and may not be taken for a Pass/D/Fail grade. Students may request an exception to this policy by submitting a petition to the Committee on Academic Standing.

What is the procedure for selecting courses P/D/F?

Students who wish to take a course for P/D/F can select this grading option via SSOL during their registration appointment times each semester. After selecting a course to modify, use the drop down window to change the grading option from "Letter Grade" to "Pass/Fail." After the change of program period, students may elect or modify a P/D/F grading option by sending an email to the University Registrar at registrar@columbia.edu. The **deadline** to select or modify a P/D/F grading option is usually second week of November in the fall term, and the third week of March in the spring term. See the University Academic Calendar for more information.