

**PASS / NO CREDIT GRADING OPTION FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
SPRING 2020 SEMESTER ONLY**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Montserrat College of Art Faculty have approved an emergency grading policy for students enrolled in undergraduate, credit-bearing courses during the spring 2020 semester. It is the College's hope that this grading option, along with other previously announced measures to provide flexibility, will help to bring additional relief to students who we recognize have been and continue to be impacted in numerous ways by COVID-19.

Any student (degree-seeking or non-matriculating) enrolled in an undergraduate course during spring 2020 may elect to take one or more of their credit-bearing courses as Pass/No Credit (P/NC).

Students must notify in writing the Faculty of each class they would like to take for P/NC no later than May 1, 2020.

Students who earn Pass (P) grades for courses covered by this emergency policy will satisfy all foundation requirements, degree requirements for most concentrations and all minor requirements as well as the Internship course. Exceptions to this policy are courses used to fulfill Art Education core requirements (see below for further explanation). Students currently on Academic Probation, Financial Aid Probation/Warning or those in danger of not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) or PACE should consult with the Academic Dean's and Financial Aid offices before making any decisions about Pass/No Credit. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to elect the Pass/No Credit option.

Important information regarding the Pass/No Credit emergency grading option:

- Students who wish to opt into the Pass/No Credit option, must do so directly, in writing, with each of their faculty by May 1, 2020
- The decision to switch to Pass/No Credit is not reversible
- Students who request Pass/No Credit must continue to participate in remote/online coursework and adhere to the course syllabus and requirements for credit in order to continue to be eligible for a Pass grade consideration; students who stop participating and communicating with their faculty are at risk for No Credit

- Exceptions to the policy: In order to fulfill graduation requirements, Art Education concentrators must earn standard letter grades for core Art Education program courses (ie not only courses coded AExxx but including those courses which require a minimum grade of B- such as the psychology and diversity requirements) as this degree leads to initial licensure and per state guidelines and accreditation. However, an Art Education student, like all students, has the option to officially withdraw from any course they feel they are not going to pass and repeat it in a subsequent semester if needed; for questions about this exception please reach out to Patricia Palmer, Director of Art Education or the Registrar's Office
- Students who are repeating a class this spring who earn a Pass (P) grade will be considered to have fulfilled that course requirement unless the student is an Art Education concentrator and the course is a core Art Education course as described above
- The Pass (P) grade carries no grade points and is not computed into a student's Semester or Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
- A grade of No Credit (NC) is recorded as usual and continues to be considered a failing grade; a NC grade is computed into a student's Semester and Cumulative GPA
- Per current College policy, in order to earn Semester Honors (Dean's Honors or Dean's Highest Honors) a student must be enrolled in and earn a minimum of six credits with standard letter grades qualifying for honors designation
- A student who earns all Pass (P) grades in their spring courses will not be eligible for Semester Honors
- A graduating senior student who earns all Pass (P) grades in their spring courses would have degree (graduation) honors calculated on your Cumulative GPA at the end of the fall 2019 semester
- In addition to completing all required curricular requirements for a student's degree program, all students must earn a minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.0 in order to graduate; this should be taken into serious consideration if a student elects one or more Pass/No Credit course options particularly if your current Cumulative GPA is close to or below that threshold
- Students currently on Academic Probation, Financial Aid Probation/Warning or those in danger of not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) or PACE during spring 2020 should consult with the Academic Dean's and Financial Aid offices to determine if one or more Pass grades could jeopardize your future academic status and/or financial aid eligibility
- This emergency policy does not affect the grade appeals policy or process; however, students who request and earn a Pass (P) grade are not eligible to appeal for a standard letter grade and students who request and earn a standard letter grade are not eligible to appeal for a Pass (P) grade

- If you are a veteran receiving GI Bill benefits, Pass (P) grades will not affect your eligibility for benefits; however, students who stop participating in courses or earn grades of NC can impact your eligibility for benefits
- Although many colleges around the country will also likely move to a similar Pass/No Credit grading option, Montserrat College of Art is not responsible if another institution or employer does not accept a Pass grade in admissions decisions, awarding of transfer credit or offers of employment
- External students enrolled this spring (NECCUM, High School Dual-Enrolled, New Opportunities in Art, Continuing Education) should reach out to their home school as necessary to determine if Pass grades are transferable for program/degree requirements
- Students are not eligible for tuition refunds or account adjustments for classes taken Pass/No Credit
- This emergency grading policy applies to undergraduate courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester only
- The College reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy