Department Chairs and Student Affairs Officers in the College of Letters and Science

Jeffrey B. Lewis, Chair, College Faculty Executive Committee

December 10, 2021

Changing Undergraduate Course Grading Options & Allowing P/NP for Major/Minor Requirement Satisfaction in Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 due to COVID-19 Disruption

Following authority delegated by the Academic Senate and in accordance with the Undergraduate Council memo of November 23, 2021, the College Faculty Executive Committee hereby authorizes departments to make the following adjustments to their undergraduate programs for Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 due to the disruption caused by COVID-19:

1) Departments are authorized to change the grading basis for any and all undergraduate courses from LG (Letter Grade) to SO (Student Option), which allows a student to select a letter grade or Passed/Not Passed (P/NP).

To change the grading basis: departments should specify either 1) groups of courses to change (e.g., “all undergrad”) or 2) individual courses with subject area and course catalog numbers for which the grading basis should be changed.

For Winter 2022 and Spring 2022, please send your requests as soon as possible to Associate Registrar Claire McCluskey, cmccluskey@registrar.ucla.edu.

2) Departments wishing to allow or disallow P/NP in courses taken in Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 to count towards their major and minor requirements for which letter grading would ordinarily be demanded are requested to take the necessary actions, as needed, described below in the following scenarios.

NB: The College FEC is aligned with the Undergraduate Council in strongly encouraging all departments to provide maximum flexibility to students with regard to using P/NP for major and/or minor requirements. It is the department’s responsibility to clearly inform students of their P/NP policy each term.
Scenario 1: If departments allowed P/NP to count towards their major/minor requirements in Fall 2021 and wish to continue to allow P/NP in courses taken in Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 to count towards their major/minor requirements for which letter grading would ordinarily be demanded, they should inform the FEC that they intend to extend the Fall 2021 policy to Winter and Spring 2022.

Without further action, systems will default in Winter 2022 to the original grading requirements for majors and minor as established in the catalog. Please inform your students of your P/NP policy for Winter 2022 and Spring 2022.

As soon as possible, send 1) an email indicating your intention to continue with P/NP for specified degree requirements to FECchair@college.ucla.edu and 2) a separate email to the Degree Audit Reporting System team (support@sait.ucla.edu) to initiate a ticket for the system re-coding; please explain your request in the email body and begin the subject line with "DARS" followed by the name of the major(s) and/or minor(s) for which P/NP will satisfy degree requirements in Winter and Spring 2022.

Scenario 2: If departments did not allow P/NP to count towards their major/minor requirements in Fall 2021 and now wish to allow P/NP in courses taken in Winter and Spring 2022 to count towards their major/minor requirements for which letter grading would ordinarily be demanded, they should submit a specific proposal outlining their requested exception to the FEC for expedited consideration.

Please take care to coordinate with other affected departments or programs when considering whether to allow courses taken P/NP to count towards your major or minor if those courses also fulfill requirements of majors or minors operated by other departments or programs. Please inform your students of your P/NP policy for Winter and Spring 2022.

Send your request as soon as possible to FECchair@college.ucla.edu. Note that the FEC approval will include a reminder to send a subsequent email to the Degree Audit Reporting System team (support@sait.ucla.edu) in order to initiate a ticket for the system re-coding. To initiate a ticket for the system re-coding, please explain your request in the email body and begin the subject line with “DARS” followed by the name of the major(s) and/or minor(s) for which P/NP will satisfy degree requirements in Winter 2022 and Spring 2022.

Scenario 3: If departments allowed P/NP to count towards their major/minor requirements in Fall 2021 and do not wish to continue to allow P/NP in courses taken in Winter and Spring 2022 to count towards their major/minor requirements for which letter grading would ordinarily be demanded, no action needs to be taken. All requirement codes in the Degree Audit Reporting System will default in Winter 2022 to the original grading requirements for majors and minor as established in the catalog. Please inform your students of your P/NP policy for Winter 2022 and Spring 2022.
Scenario 4: If departments did not allow P/NP to count towards their major/minor requirements in Fall 2021 and still do not wish to allow P/NP in courses taken in Winter and Spring 2022 to count towards their major/minor requirements for which letter grading would ordinarily be demanded, no action needs to be taken. Please inform your students of your P/NP policy for Winter and Spring 2022.

Departments are welcome to contact me at jblewis@ucla.edu with questions. Leigh Harris, Director of Curricular Initiatives, is also available to assist you; she can be reached at lharris@college.ucla.edu.