FAQs re: Grading Basis for Econ & Business Econ Majors in Spring

When were the Econ and Bus Econ majors informed about the Department’s decision on grading basis for the required courses for the two majors?
In an Econ Alert sent on Friday, April 17, 2020. The subject heading was “P/NP Option in Spring Quarter for Econ and Bus Econ” This Econ Alert can be found at https://economics.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pass-No-Pass-for-Major-4-17-20.pdf

Based on the Econ Alert sent on April 17, 2020 – can I take all of the courses for the major for P/NP?
No. For more information, see below.

Can I take the lower division pre-major courses for P/NP?
No. Econ 1, 2, 11, 41; Math 31A, 31B; and the Writing II course for the Econ and Bus Econ pre-majors must all be taken for a letter grade. If you are pursuing the Bus Econ major, Mgmt 1A and Mgmt 1B must also be taken for letter grades.

Can I take the required core courses (Econ 101, 102, 103/103L) for P/NP?
No. Econ 101, Econ 102, and Econ 103/103L must all be taken for a letter grade.

Can I take Economics 5 for P/NP?
Yes. If you Pass the course – it will still satisfy the Diversity requirement, as well as a Social Analysis (Foundations of Society and Culture Foundations of Society and Culture) GE. This course does not count towards the Econ or the Bus Econ major.

Why can’t students take pre-major courses on a P/NP basis?
Pre-major courses must be taken by all Econ and Bus Econ majors. Part of the reason for this is that the grades in these courses help determine if our students are eligible for the major.

Why can’t students take the core upper division courses (Econ 101, 102, and 103/103L) on a P/NP basis?
The core courses must be taken by all Econ and Bus Econ majors. Therefore, all students must be evaluated on the same basis (i.e., all of our students must take these courses for letter grades).

Which Econ Elective courses can I take P/NP?
Econ 106F/106FB, 106G/106GL, 106M/106ML, 106T/106TL, 107, 113, 122, 134, 143, 144, 160, 165, and 170 may all be taken on a P/NP basis. For courses with both lecture and lab components (106F/106FB, 106G/106GL, 106M/106ML, 106T/106TL), you must select the same grading basis for each course (either both letter grades or both P/NP).

Are there any Econ elective courses that I cannot take P/NP?
Econ 173B and Econ 187 are the only two Econ UD elective courses in the Spring that students may not take on a P/NP basis even though they satisfy upper division Economics Electives.

EngComp 131B is a required course for Bus Econ majors. If I am planning on pursuing the Bus Econ major, can I take this course on a P/NP basis?
Yes. This course may be taken on a P/NP basis in the Spring and it will still count for the major.

For the Econ major, which Mgmt courses offered in the Spring can satisfy the maximum of two upper division Mgmt Electives, regardless of the grading option?
Students majoring in Economics are permitted to substitute two upper division Mgmt courses for two upper division Economics electives. You may select from the following Mgmt courses offered in Spring: Mgmt 120A, 120B, 122, 127A, 130A, and 170.

For the Bus Econ Econ major, which Mgmt courses offered in the Spring can satisfy the maximum of three upper division Mgmt Electives, regardless of the grading basis?
Students majoring in Business Economics are permitted to substitute three upper division Mgmt courses for three upper division Economics electives. You may select from the following Mgmt courses offered in Spring 2020: Mgmt 108, 120A, 120B, 122, 123, 124, 126, 127A, 127B, 130A, and 170.
Which Mgmt courses offered in the Spring quarter CANNOT be taken on a P/NP basis?
Mgmt 160, Mgmt 161, Mgmt 163, Mgmt 164, and Mgmt 167, since these courses are set up as letter grade only (i.e., they MUST be taken for a letter grade).

I have not yet been officially admitted to the Econ or Bus Econ major. If I take an upper division Econ or Mgmt course on a P/NP basis in Spring, will it still satisfy a requirement once I am officially admitted?
Yes, the P/NP option applies to when you took the course (i.e., in the Spring 2020 Quarter) even if you are not officially in the Econ or the Bus Econ major.

If I am a Mathematics/Economics major, will an elective taken P/NP count towards my major?
Students already in or planning to apply for Mathematics/Economics should check with the Math Department counselors at ugrad@math.ucla.edu to ask if P/NP grading will be allowed. Our understanding is that all courses for the Mathematics/Economics major must be taken for a letter grade.

Will an upper division Mgmt Elective taken P/NP count towards the Accounting Minor?
Students already in or planning to apply for the Minor in Accounting should check with Maria Cuevas, the counselor for the Minor, at accounting.minor@anderson.ucla.edu to ask if P/NP grading will be allowed. Our understanding is that courses taken for the Minor in Accounting must be taken for a letter grade.

Will an upper division Mgmt Elective taken P/NP count towards the Entrepreneurship Minor?
Mgmt 160 series courses are set up as letter grade only; however, students already in or planning to apply for the Minor in Entrepreneurship should check with the counselor for the Minor, Janel Munguia, who can be reached via the MyUCLA Message Center. Our understanding is that courses taken for the Entrepreneurship must be taken for a letter grade.

What should I know before changing my class to P/NP?
Students majoring in Econ who take an upper division elective for a letter grade will receive unit and upper division Econ/Mgmt Elective credit if they receive any grade higher than an F. Students majoring in Bus Econ who take an upper division Econ/Mgmt Elective for a letter grade will receive unit and upper division Econ Elective credit if they receive a minimum grade of C-.

Students who choose to take the course P/NP must achieve a minimum grade of a C to receive a P grade and earn unit and major credit.

How many P/NP classes can I count towards my Econ or my Bus Econ major?
Normally zero, but for Spring 2020, this will depend on the courses you enroll in for the Spring. For example, if you enroll in Econ 102, Econ 107, and Psych 110 -- you can take Econ 107 and Psych 110 on a P/NP basis, but you’ll need to take Econ 102 for a letter grade. Please note that if all Spring Quarter courses are taken on a P/NP basis, students will not have a GPA at the end of the quarter. The lack of a GPA may affect Financial Aid or Scholarships. Please check with UCLA’s Financial Aid & Scholarships Office if you have questions about this: https://www.financialaid.ucla.edu/

How is my GPA affected by P/NP grades?
P/NP outcomes will not have an impact on your UC GPA. They will not lower your UC GPA nor will they raise your UC GPA.

By when do I have to change my grading basis?
You have until the last day of classes (June 5, 2020) to make a decision on the grading basis for each course. You may elect different options for different courses.

By when do I have to drop a course in the Spring?
You may drop a course until the last day of classes (June 5, 2020). This applies to both Impacted and Non-Impacted courses.

What is the lowest grade I can earn and still receive a Pass in the course?
Undergraduate students who take a course on a P/NP basis must achieve a grade of C or better to receive a Pass grade in order to satisfy a degree requirement and to earn unit credit. Students who earn a grade of C- or lower will receive a NP and will not earn unit credit. Note that there may be cases in which it is more beneficial for students to retain letter grading because a letter grade of C- or lower may satisfy degree requirements.
What if I change my grade to P/NP and earn a C- or lower?
Per UCLA regulation, you will receive a NP grade, will not earn unit credit for the course, and cannot use the course to satisfy any UCLA requirement.

How do graduate and professional schools view P/NP grades?
It is unclear how each graduate and professional schools will view classes taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Please consult with the individual graduate or professional program directly for more information.

How does the admissions committee for UCLA’s Master of Applied Economics (MAE) program view P/NP grades?
Please send an email to mae-office@econ.ucla.edu to inquire about this. For more information about the program, please visit https://master.econ.ucla.edu/about/

How does the admissions committee for UCLA’s Ph.D. program in Economics view P/NP grades?
Please send an email to phdadmit@econ.ucla.edu to inquire about this. For more information about the program, please visit https://economics.ucla.edu/graduate/ph-d-program/

How does the admissions committee for UCLA’s MBA program view P/NP grades?
Please send an email to mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu to inquire about this. For more information about the program, visit https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/degrees/full-time-mba

Will the Economics courses in the summer be offered remotely only?
For summer session A – yes. This is still being discussed by the faculty in the department for summer session C.

If I take an Economics course at UCLA in the summer on a P/NP basis – will the course count for the major?
This is still being discussed by the faculty in the department.

Where can I find more information about taking a class P/NP?
For information regarding how grades of P/NP might impact other requirements at UCLA and further issues to consider when making your decision, please contact a counselor in College Academic Counseling, or review the following website: https://cac.ucla.edu/academic-policies/grading-repeats/

If you have additional questions about these policies, who should I contact?
Please contact your general College counseling unit (CAC, Honors, AAP, or Athletics) or the school of your primary major (if your primary major is not housed under the College of Letters and Science) for questions about taking classes P/NP. College/School advising office information can be found at: https://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Academics/Academic-Counseling

While you have the option of taking any of your elective courses on a P/NP basis this quarter, we encourage you to think through the potential effects of shifting to this grading basis. Where can I read further about this?
For two different takes on what some potential effects may be, we offer the following PBS piece titled “Pass/fail grades may help students during the COVID-19 crisis, but could cost them later”: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/pass-fail-grades-may-help-students-during-the-covid-19-crisis-but-could-cost-them-later

If I choose the P/NP option for Spring on an Econ Elective, a Mgmt elective, and/or Eng Comp 131B, will the course automatically show up under the UD major section of my Degree Audit Report (DAR)?
In short – no. If you are officially in the Economics or the Business Economics major, you will need to submit a request to the Department of Economics undergraduate counseling office via the Message Center to have your DAR updated after the Spring Quarter is over, and after your Pass “grade” for the course is posted on your transcript. Students who are not officially in Economics or Business Economics will need to wait on submitting the request.

Who can I speak with about P/NP not being allowed for the pre-major and/or the core courses?
Unfortunately, the decision has been discussed at length by the faculty in the Department of Economics, it has been voted on by the UCLA Faculty Executive Committee, and it has been approved by the UCLA Registrar’s Office. The decision is final. With that said – if a student wishes to submit commentary on the decision, negative or positive, please do so via the MyUCLA Message Center.
My friends in other majors are able to take their prep courses and the major courses for P/NP. Why isn’t Economics allowing this as well?

We did a survey of multiple departments across campus. Two large Departments – namely the Mathematics Department and the Communication Department – are requiring students to take all of their courses for the prep and the major for letter grades. Students majoring in Statistics must still take all prerequisite courses for letter grades. As far as we know, the departments in the Life Sciences (Psychology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, etc.) are allowing students to take all the courses for the major on a P/NP basis. If you wish to do a double major or a minor – please contact the academic counselor in that Department before deciding on the grading basis for any of your courses.

If I have additional FAQs for the Department of Economics undergraduate counselors, what is the best resource?

Please review the FAQs specific to the Economics and Business Economics majors at https://economics.ucla.edu/undergraduate/current-students/faq/

If I have more questions about this topic or for the Department of Economics undergraduate counselors in general, what should I do?

Please contact the counselors through the MyUCLA Message Center: https://economics.ucla.edu/undergraduate/contact-us/message-center/