

SPRING 2020 - CHOOSING BETWEEN P/Z OR LETTER GRADE

How Has Spring 2020 Grading Changed?

Due to the COVID19 epidemic, your spring 2020 grades are currently defaulted to a Pass/ No Credit grading system (P or Z grade).

What Does That Mean?

Retaining scholarships, honor program status and transfer requirements are some reasons you might need to request a letter grade rather than a P/Z. For details, see below or go to the [MCC COVID-19 website](#).

What Can I Do?

If you prefer to earn a standard letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) on your transcript, you must communicate your request in writing to your instructor, before the established deadline (check with your instructor). You will need to complete this process for each class you prefer to earn a standard letter grade. Students must opt-in through email or Canvas messaging to their faculty member(s) no later than one calendar week prior to the end of each course.

The charts below can help you understand how certain grades impact your academic record:

Grade	Academic Standing	MCC GPA Impact
A	4.0	Yes
B	3.0	Yes
C	2.0	Yes
D	1.0	Yes
F	0.0	Yes

Grade	Academic Standing	MCC GPA Impact
P	Passing (C or better)	No
Z	No Credit	No
W	Withdrawn (Passing)	No
Y	Withdrawn (Failing)	Yes



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When would requesting a standard letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) be beneficial? When would receiving a P or Z be a better option? Below are some questions to ask yourself to help you make an informed decision:

How Are You Paying for School?

	What is the effect of taking a P / Z?	When you should consider requesting the letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) option?
Did you receive federal financial aid (Pell Grants and/or loans) this semester?	Since a P grade is policy with C or better, college credit is awarded. Financial aid eligibility will be based on passing the course.	If you are planning to transfer to a competitive program, request a letter grade, of A, B, or C.
Are you receiving Veteran Benefits?	A P grade is allowable with no impact. Due to COVID-19, the Z grade is now also allowable with no impact to GI Bill benefits.	If you are planning to transfer to a competitive program, request a letter grade of A, B, or C.
Did you get a scholarship for this semester?	Since a P grade is policy with C or better, college credit is awarded. Your scholarship renewal eligibility may be based on passing the course.	If you earn a letter grade of A, B or C, it will be in your best interest to request a letter grade.
Is a third party helping pay for your classes (Tribal funding, employer reimbursement, Vocational Rehab)?	Since a P grade is policy with C or better, college credit is awarded. Your scholarship renewal eligibility may be based on passing the course.	If you earn a letter grade of A, B or C, it will be in your best interest to request a letter grade.

Do You Belong to Any of the Following Student Groups?

	What is the effect of taking a P / Z?	When you should consider requesting the letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) option?
Are you a student athlete?	A "P" grade will not change eligibility.	If you need to improve your GPA for eligibility, request a letter grade.
Are you a student in the Honors program?	For all other spring 2020 classes, honors students, at their own discretion and understanding potential future impacts, may choose either P/Z grading, letter grading, or a combination. All Honors students still must maintain a CUM GPA of at least 3.25. However, Honors Probation policy is being extended to all Honors students (for spring 2020 only). Students whose CUM GPA falls between 3.0 and 3.24 will be put on Honors Probation and will have until the end of fall 2020 to raise their CUM GPA back to at least 3.25. Honors students who have had their Honors Classes or Honors Contracts cancelled are advised to contact their Honors Program Directors to discuss next steps.	The Maricopa Honors Program will require letter grades be reported for all spring 2020 designated Honors Classes and/or Honors Contract classes.
Are you an International Student?	As long as 12-credit hours are earned for the semester, a P grade will not negatively impact international students.	International students should focus on earning an A, B, or C or a P in at least 12-credit hours.
Are you a dual enrollment student?		Pass/Fail (P/Z) grading is not available for year-long DE classes. This option is not recommended for Spring-only DE courses as "P" grades are not guaranteed to transfer or apply towards graduation requirements for institutions outside the AZ Transfer partners.

Majors, Programs, and Transfer

What is the effect of taking a P / Z?

When you should consider requesting the letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) option?

Are you applying to a program with competitive admissions requirements?

Some competitive admissions programs will not accept a P grade or will compute a P grade as a 2.0 GPA.

Many competitive admissions programs will require a letter grade of A, B, or C.

Examples: MCCCDC Dental Hygiene, ASU W.P. Carey School of Business, Medical school, Veterinary School, a Physician Assistant (PA) program

Are you in a pre-nursing program?

A P grade will reduce your competitiveness for the CEP (BSN Continuing Education Program).

Since you are entering a nursing program, it would be most beneficial to request a letter grade in any pre-requisite course. If you are applying to enter the concurrent enrollment program (CEP), there is a competitive process where applicants are "graded" on a rubric. GPA is one of the major indicators.

Are you transferring to an out-of-state college or university?

P/Z grade may negatively affect your admissions eligibility.

Most out-of-state colleges or universities will require a letter grade.

Are you transferring to the following in-state colleges or universities: ASU, NAU, UA, GCU, or University of Phoenix?

P grades will be accepted to meet general education requirements but may not meet major requirements.

Letter grades will be accepted to meet major requirements and general education requirements.



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Questions? Please Visit mesacc.edu

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