

January 22, 2021

Department Chairs  
Program Directors  
College Provosts

**Re: Extending P/NP During the Pandemic**

Dear Colleagues,

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has reviewed and discussed the recent correspondence from Academic Council regarding P/NP extensions during the ongoing pandemic<sup>1</sup>. As a continuation of the decisions made by the [2019-20 committee in its April 3, 2020 memo](#), the committee would like to continue to provide guidance for how this impacts our own campus and our recommendations for spring 2020 through summer 2021.<sup>2</sup>

- **Policies that do not relate to requirements for academic programs**

- P/NP grades earned at UC Santa Cruz during the period that courses are taught primarily through remote instruction will not be included in the requirement that no more than 25% of the credits completed at UC Santa Cruz may be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis (Temporary adjustment to SR 10.1.1).

- **Existing relevant regulations**

- Students who are not in good academic standing are not able to take courses on a P/NP basis (SR 9.1.2).
- Students who failed a course with a letter grade cannot retake it on a P/NP basis (SR 9.1.8).

- **Policies that relate to requirements for academic programs**

We continue to encourage departments to remain flexible and to think about P/NP for major qualifications and other departmental letter grade requirements, and to have clear communication to students and advisers.

We are linking the Office of Campus Advising Coordination's [updated grading matrix](#) to help departments and colleges understand the grading options available. CEP encourages departments to help ensure that students are making progress to the completion of their degrees, and that our practices are flexible and equitable given the circumstances of the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Tracy Larrabee, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy

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<sup>1</sup> Academic Council Chair Gauvain's memos: [Divisional Flexibility in implementation of SR 782](#) and [Extension of Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Winter, Spring, and Summer 2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> Or while the majority of instruction continues to be in the remote teaching and learning mode.

cc: David Brundage, Chair, Academic Senate  
Yat Li, Chair, Committee on Courses of Instruction  
Don Smith, Chair, Graduate Council  
Richard Hughey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education  
Stacey Sketo-Rosener, Assistant Vice Provost of Undergraduate Advising  
Tchad Sanger, University Registrar  
Jody Greene, Associate Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning  
Divisional Deans  
Department Managers