

## **Resolution 2015-12. On Revising the Pass/D+/D/Fail Option.**

*Presented by the Educational Policy Committee*

**The Faculty Council resolves:**

**The academic regulation concerning the Pass/D+/D/Fail Option found on pg. 462 of the 2015-2016 Carolina Undergraduate Bulletin be amended as follows:**

The Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail option provides students an opportunity to enroll in an additional course (beyond the usual load of five academic courses) or to reduce their concerns about competing with prospective majors in a course in which they have considerable interest. Students who declare a course on the Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail option will receive the grade of PS (pass) when a letter grade of A through ~~C- D~~ is recorded on the official grade roster. ~~, a D+ or D when a letter grade of D+ or D is recorded, or~~ and F when the course is failed. For the purpose of computing a grade point average, a PS grade does not count as hours attempted; therefore, a PS grade does not affect a student's grade point average. However, ~~grades of D+, D, or~~ an F under the Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail option counts s as hours attempted and is treated in the same manner as ~~D+, D, and~~ F grades earned in any other course.

Course content and requirements are the same for Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail registrants as for regular registrants. The minimum performance for a PS grade is equivalent to the minimum performance for the letter grade of ~~C- D~~.

### **Regulations Governing the Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail Option**

The following regulations govern the use of the Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail option:

~~A. Students must take at least nine academic hours for regular letter grade credit in the semester in which other hours are declared Pass/D+/D/Fail.~~

~~B. No more than four credit hours (e.g., one three-hour academic course and a physical education activity course) may be taken on the Pass/D+/D/Fail grading system during a single semester.~~

~~A. Students may only take one student-elected P/F course each semester.~~

~~B. A maximum of 16 hours of Pass/D+/D/Fail credit may be taken in a student's undergraduate career.~~

~~B. No more than 23 total credit hours of P/F credit hours will be allowed in a student's undergraduate career, with no more than 16 hours from student-elected P/F classes and no more than 13 hours from established P/F courses.~~

~~D. Not to be counted in the limits specified in B and C above are up to seven hours taken in courses for which ONLY PS or F grades are assigned.~~

~~E. C.~~ The following courses may not be declared Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail:

- Courses used to satisfy General Education requirements (with the exception of lifetime fitness courses and some experiential education courses that are

only offered as Pass/Fail courses). ~~A course that is approved as a General Education requirement may be declared Pass/D+/D/Fail, but the course may not be used to satisfy a General Education requirement if a grade of is PS awarded; however, if a grade of D+ or D is awarded the course may be used to fulfill a General Education requirement.~~

- ~~Courses a student has taken previously for a letter grade.~~
- Courses in a student's major or minor department or curriculum (or cross-listed with those departments or curricula), even if used as an elective. However, students who change their major (or minor) may count in the new major (or minor) one course previously completed with the grade PS.
- Courses specifically required by the major or minor, including foreign language courses and any additional required courses (but see the note below)
- Summer School courses
- Carolina Courses Online
- An honors seminar or honors course
- Courses taken via interinstitutional enrollment
- First-year seminars

Note: Prerequisites to courses specifically required for the major or minor may be taken Pass/~~D+/D~~/Fail unless a specific grade is required in the prerequisite course.

### **Comment: Pass/D+/D/Fail Policy Amendments Summary and Rationale**

1. Change the Pass/D/D+/Fail to a Pass/Fail policy.
  - A true Pass/Fail policy is simpler and easier to understand.
  - With the current policy a student taking a course that fits a general education requirement does not fulfill that requirement with a PS (i.e those earning a grade from A to C-) but does fulfill the requirement with a D or D+.
  - Since one of the goals of the policy is to allow students to take a risk with a challenging course, having D+ and D count toward the GPA does not fully remove the risk for particularly difficult courses with low average grades.
  - Over the past 4 years, only 340 students (an average of 42 each semester) received a D+ or D after declaring a course Pass/D+/D/Fail.
2. Increasing the number of established Pass/Fail course (courses that are only available on a P/F grading system) a student can take from 7 hours to 13 hours while maintaining the same maximum number of Pass/Fail hours at 23 credit hours.
  - The current policy allows students to take up to 16 student-elected Pass/Fail credit hours and another 7 hours in established Pass/Fail courses. Thus, the revision increases the maximum allowed credit hours of established Pass/Fail courses from 7 to 13 without increasing the total number of

- Pass/Fail credit hours a students can take in his/her undergraduate career.
- This change would allow students to take more established Pass/Fail courses than they currently can with the goal of allowing students more opportunities for research, internships and other experiential courses.
3. Adding a regulation that prohibits students from repeating a course they took previously for a letter grade as electing to take it Pass/Fail.
    - If a student fails a course, she or he should not be allowed to take it again on a P/F basis, with the intent of learning as little as possible.
  4. Simplifying policy to requirement that students can only take one student-elected P/F course during each full academic semester (fall and spring).
    - The current policy only allows a Pass/Fail course if students are taking 9 credit hours for grades that same semester, which does not allow seniors with an under load to elect to take a course as Pass/Fail.