



Pass/No Pass FAQs

1. What is Pass/No Pass?

Pass/No Pass (P/NP) in most cases, is a way of taking a class without worrying about your grade. As long as you satisfactorily complete the course (at the "C" or better level), you will receive a "Pass (P)" on your DVC transcript. If you finish the course at the "D" or "F" level, you will receive a "No Pass (NP)" on your transcript. Neither P nor NP will affect your DVC grade point average.

Many students choose this option because it allows them to take courses without worrying about how their performance in these courses (as long as they are confident they can achieve at least a "C" will affect their grade point averages. For example, students may want to explore interests outside of their current major or to fulfill General Education requirements using this option.

2. Will I still receive units for courses taken Pass/No Pass?

Yes, if you receive a P. **No**, if you receive a NP. As explained in question #1, if you complete the course at the "C" or better level, you will receive a "Pass (P)" on your transcript. If you finish the course at the "D" or "F" level, you will receive a "No Pass (NP)" on your transcript.

3. Will Pass/No Pass affect my grade point average (GPA)?

No in most instances. While you will receive units for courses completed with a P, they are not used to compute your DVC grade point average. While CSU & UC honor DVC's policy on Pass/No Pass, some independent or out-of-state colleges and universities may count a P as a "C" when computing your GPA for admission. (Currently, St. Mary's College of California has this policy.) While you will receive units for courses completed with a P, they are not used to compute your grade point average.

4. Are there any disadvantages in choosing the Pass/No Pass option?

Yes. If you get a NP, you will not receive any units for the course. This may have negative consequences for students on progress probation or those who must complete a certain number of units each term (e.g. student athletes, financial aid recipients, and those in the EOPS program). So, for example, if you receive a "D" in a course and took it for a letter grade, it would affect your grade point average but you would still receive units in the course. However, if you took the same course under the Pass/No Pass option and received a "D", you would not receive the units in the course. There are advantages and disadvantages under either option. As described in #3, if you are planning on transferring to an independent or out-of-state college or university, you should check on their policy on using Pass/No Pass in determining GPA.

5. Is the Pass/No Pass option available for all DVC courses?

No. Only courses listed in the catalog or schedule of courses with the grade code of "P/NP" or "SC" may be taken for P/NP. Courses coded P/NP may only be taken Pass/No Pass. Many courses are coded "SC" which means "Student Choice". You will receive a letter grade for the course unless you inform the Admissions & Records Office that you choose to take the course P/NP (see #9). Courses coded "LR" may only be taken for a letter grade.

6. Are there any courses I shouldn't take Pass/No Pass?

Yes. You shouldn't take courses required for your major P/NP. Most four-year colleges & universities require that courses in your major be completed with a letter grade of "C" or better. Some DVC Certificate programs require a specific grade point average, which means you must complete some courses for a letter grade. Check the DVC catalog for details. It is often best to discuss this choice with a DVC counselor.

7. Are there limits to the number of units I can take Pass/No Pass?

Yes, in some cases. For students planning on transferring any of the campuses in the University of California (UC) system, a maximum of 14 units may be taken P/NP toward the 60 UC transferable units required to transfer as a junior. For the California State University (CSU) system and the Independent Colleges & Universities, the policies vary from campus to campus. Please consult with a DVC counselor.

8. Can I use DVC courses taken P/NP for General Education (either for the AA, CSU GE or IGETC)?

Yes, if you receive a "P".

9. Will the instructor of the course know I'm taking the class P/NP?

No. If you have informed the Admissions & Records Office that you will be taking the course P/NP, they will assign you a P or NP depending upon the grade the instructor submits for you. If you earned a grade of "C" or higher, your transcript will show a "P", if you earned a "D" or "F", your transcript will show an "NP". Informing your instructor that you are choosing the P/NP option will **not** replace completing the form in the Admissions & Records Office. (See #10)

10. If I choose to take the course for P/NP, what do I have to do?

Go to the Admissions & Records Office before the specified deadline. The staff there will assist you in filing the appropriate form.

11. Is there a deadline for choosing the P/NP option?

Yes. You must submit the form to the Admissions & Records Office before 30% of the course is over. For a full-length term course (18 weeks) this is usually by the end of the fifth week. Check the calendar in the Schedule of Courses for the deadline date. For short term and summer session, these deadlines will be earlier.

12. Can I change my mind later in the semester if I decide I want to take the course for a letter grade?

No. After the deadline has passed, you may not change your choice.