

Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences
UNDERGRADUATE
Pass/Fail & Late Drop - Frequently Asked Questions
Spring, 2020

On March 18, 2020, [Boston College announced several changes to academic policies](#) including taking courses pass/fail and extending the drop and withdrawal deadlines.

We can imagine that you may have a lot of questions about this. Hopefully, you can find some answers here. If not, please reach out to the Academic Advising Center and Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences Associate Deans' Office (contact information is at the bottom of the page).

PASS/FAIL

Is this policy continuing past this current semester?

No. These changes in the Pass / Fail policy are only for the Spring 2020 semester.

When is the deadline to declare a course pass/fail?

12:00 PM NOON EST on April 30, 2020. Please note that since the deadline has been extended, there will be no further extensions granted past noon (Eastern Daylight Time) on April 30, 2020.

How do I designate a course to be pass/fail?

Student Services is working on a process that will operate through your Agora Portal. Details on this process will be available by April 9th.

Can I declare all of my courses pass/fail?

Yes. There is no limit this semester (Spring 2020) on the number of courses you can make pass/fail.

If I declare a core course pass/fail, will it still fulfill that requirement?

Yes. Core courses can be taken pass/fail and still fulfill the core requirement if you receive a pass. If you fail the course, it will not fulfill the requirement.

If I declare a required course for my major/minor or a corequisite pass/fail, will it still fulfill that requirement?

Yes. Courses that are required for your major/minor or corequisite can be taken pass/fail and still fulfill the requirement if you receive a pass. If you fail the course, it will not fulfill the requirement.

Will I receive credits for the pass/fail course?

Yes, you will earn the credits if you pass. If you take a 3-credit course pass/fail and pass the course, you will receive 3 credits. If you do not pass the course, you do not receive credits.

How does a pass/fail course affect my GPA?

You do not receive GPA credit for a course when you pass a pass/fail class. If you fail the course, you will receive 3 credits of 0.0 factored into your GPA. If you take five classes pass/fail, the term GPA will be 0.0 but not counted into your GPA.

How does a pass/fail appear on a transcript?

On your transcript, a P or F will appear where a grade typically would be.

I studied abroad this spring. Can I change my class(es) to pass/fail?

Please contact OIP for information about your specific program.

Will my professors know I am taking the class pass/fail?

In keeping with the usual policy, if a student has declared a class pass/fail, the professor will not see that designation until they submit grades at the end of the semester. All grading and assignments will continue as usual until the final grade is submitted. If your grade is a D- or above, you will get a P, along with the credits earned. These classes will not factor into your GPA. If you fail the course, you will get an F and it is calculated into your GPA.

Can freshmen take classes pass/fail?

Yes. Freshmen can take classes pass/fail this semester. This is a one-time exception.

How will future employers view pass/fail on a transcript?

The truth is, we do not know how an employer would view a pass/fail. However, many of our peer institutions have instituted similar policies this semester.

How will it look on graduate school applications?

Similar to the question above, we do not know how pass/fail courses would be viewed on a graduate school application. It is best to check with those institutions to see if they have made a statement about how pass/fail courses will be handled. *For specific information on pre-health programs, please consult the pre-health website.*

If I declare a course pass/fail, can I change my mind later in the semester?

No. Once you declare a course pass/fail, the decision is *irreversible*.

Would you recommend making courses pass/fail?

The decision will have to be one that you make yourself. What we can recommend is that you take some time to consider your options before you make a decision. The transition to online teaching just began. We suggest you take a few weeks to see how it goes before you decide, as you will benefit from seeing how your classes progress. To be clear, once you make a course pass/fail, you cannot change it back.

LATE DROP OR WITHDRAWAL

What is the difference between a “drop” and a “withdraw”?

If you “drop” a class, the class disappears from your transcript like you never were in the class. If you “withdraw” from a class, the course will show up on your transcript with a W next to it. Boston College has extended the “drop” date until **12:00 PM Noon on April 9th**. The “withdrawal” deadline is April 30th at **12:00 PM Noon**.

When is the last day to “drop” a class?

April 9th, 2020 at **12:00 PM Noon Eastern Daylight Time**.

If I already “withdrew” from a class this semester, can I now make it a “drop”?

Retroactively changing withdrawals from earlier in the semester to drops will not be automatic. Anyone who wants to change their Withdrawal to a Drop is required to fill out the same form we are using for current drops and withdrawals. This will ensure that they will go through the same review by student services and the financial aid office. After April 9th at noon, your options will be limited to pass / fail or withdraw from a course.

When is the last day to withdraw from a class?

12:00 PM Noon Eastern Daylight Time April 30, 2020

How will I drop / withdraw from a class?

The University Drop/Withdrawal form is available [here](#). This is a google form. If you are unable to access the google form from your home, an editable pdf will be available soon on the [Student Services forms page](#). You will need to fill out the pdf and email it back to casdean@bc.edu.

Can I drop and/or withdraw from more than one course?

You must maintain full-time status, which means you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits. If you have any questions or circumstances, please contact the associate deans’ office - casdean@bc.edu

I am an international student. Can I drop or withdraw from classes?

Yes, but you must maintain full-time status (at least 12 credits) in order to keep your F-1 visa in good standing.

I am a student athlete. Can I drop or withdraw from classes?

Yes, but you should first get this cleared by your advisor in SAAS, then fill out the drop/withdrawal form.