

Frequently Asked Questions: Pass/Fail

What are the advantages of Pass/Fail?

- Some students may find this to be less stressful since their GPA is not impacted by the outcome of a course taken pass/fail.

What are the disadvantages?

- If you need to improve your GPA, a pass/fail doesn't help because it won't count in your GPA
- Some students may become less motivated to strive for higher grades and lose learning opportunities!

How does this affect accreditation with CSWE?

- It has no effect on accreditation--we checked with CSWE!

How does this affect accreditation with CEPH?

- It has no effect on accreditation--we checked with CEPH!

How will this affect applications to further graduate studies?

- If you have a strong GPA, this should not have any negative effects on applying to graduate programs. However, if you are doing well in a course, a letter grade would probably be more useful to you, since it provides more information about your performance.
- Many other schools around the country have moved to Pass/Fail, so this may be common on transcripts for future applications.

How does this affect licensure?

- Each state has different licensure requirements. Some states for example require a course like differential diagnosis to obtain licensure. If you fail a course that is required for licensure, you will not be able to obtain licensure unless you retake and pass that course.
- We are not aware of any states that would not accept a pass rather than a letter grade, but each student should check on the specific licensure requirements for the state in which they plan to practice.

What is the threshold for a Pass?

- In the Brown School a 70% is the lowest possible passing grade.
- You must have an overall GPA of 3.0 to graduate.

How does this affect my GPA?

- It does not affect your GPA. Pass/fail cannot be calculated into your GPA, even if you fail the course.

Does this affect my credits towards graduation?

- If you pass the course and receive a pass for a grade, you will receive credit for that course.
- If you fail, you will not receive credit for the course. If that course is a degree requirement then you will not be able to graduate until you complete that degree requirement with a passing grade.

What happens if I fail a class?

- Your transcript will reflect that you failed. You will not receive credit for that course. If the course is needed to graduate, you will not graduate unless you retake the course or an approved alternative.
- If you choose Pass/Fail and you Fail the course, this does not get calculated in your GPA

How will this affect employment?

- It is very uncommon for a potential employer to ask for a copy of your transcripts, other than to prove completion of your degrees. It should not have any adverse effects on employment
- Many other schools around the country have moved to Pass/Fail, so this may be common on transcripts for other job applicants.
- Some state licensure applications require the Registrar to give an “estimate” of your GPA. For example: 1) “P (Passing), S (Satisfactory), Or CR (Credit) Grades are equivalent to a “C-” or above. 2) P (Passing), S (Satisfactory) Grade are equivalent to a “D” or below. Either way, having a Pass/Fail grade option does not impact how these questions are answered.