

## Senate Policy

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### Pass/Fail Grading Policy (Undergraduate)

# 2.27

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#### **Description:**

This policy outlines the criteria and process for the designation of undergraduate courses as pass/fail.

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#### **Approvals:**

Approved by Senate Academic Standards Committee: May 2025

Approved by Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee: May 2025

Approved by Senate: May 2025

Date Effective: September 2025

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**Approval Authority:** Senate

**Signature:** Julian Goss, Senate Chair

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#### **Policy:**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria and process for the designation of undergraduate courses as Pass/Fail courses. A Pass/Fail course is one in which a student's final grade is recorded on their transcript as a grade of Pass (P) for meeting the minimum requirements and learning outcomes of the course, and a grade of Fail (F) for failing to meet the minimum requirements and learning outcomes of the course. Minimum requirements and learning outcomes are identified in the course syllabus.

#### **Eligible Courses**

The designation of a course as Pass/Fail is intended to enhance student learning and encourage academic exploration, engagement and collaboration. Courses may be designated as Pass/Fail if they fall into one or more of the following categories:

- **Experiential Learning:** Professional practice courses, field placements and internships including those through which students may gain credit for workplace experience. (See also Policy 1.6: Experiential Learning Placement Program Policy)

- **Community-based Learning:** Courses focusing primarily on collaborative or independent community-based, project-based learning.
- **Foundational Skills and Knowledge:** Courses that focus on the acquisition of foundational skills and knowledge, e.g. writing, research, language, literacies, study skills, studio process, technical skills, or otherwise provide foundational content and knowledge that prepares students for more advanced, discipline-specific coursework.
- **Thesis and Capstone:** Thesis or professional capstone courses that focus on independent student work and creation.
- **Lecture Series:** A course whose primary requirement is attendance and participation at a series of lectures offered by a range of speakers.
- **Indigenous-focused:** Courses that employ teaching methods and pedagogies that are informed by Indigenous world views.

Subject to these categories, all course types across all modes of delivery are eligible for designation as Pass/Fail. Pass/Fail designation is generally not permitted for Specifically Required Courses in a student's major program, although exceptions may be considered if these courses fall into one of the above categories.

### **Grading Criteria**

- A grade of "Pass" (P) indicates that the student has satisfied the requirements and learning outcomes of a course. Credit is awarded with no associated numeric or letter grade.
- A grade of "Fail" (F) indicates that the student failed to meet the learning outcomes of a course. No credit awarded. No associated numeric or letter grade.

### **Impact on Academic Progress**

- Pass/fail courses count towards degree requirements if a "Pass" grade is achieved.
- Pass/fail grades do not affect a student's GPA but are recorded on the transcript.

### **Designation of a Course as Pass/Fail**

The designation of a course as pass/fail is a curricular change subject to the University's regular curricular approval process. This approval process includes the determination if a course is eligible as per "Eligible Courses", above.