

Frequently Asked Questions on the Fall 2020 Special Grading Policy

1. *What is the special grading policy that will be available to students?*

Answer: The fall 2020 special grading policy applies only to **UNDERGRADUATE** students.

Students will have the option of converting the final grade associated with a **MAXIMUM OF TWO** courses to a fall 2020 special grade. (Please note: the maximum includes any special grades received for Rutgers courses – see question 14)

Undergraduate students many choose to convert:

A grade of F to a special fall 2020 grade of NAD (non-academic credit).

A grade of D to a special grade of AC (academic credit)

A grade of C or higher to P (Pass Grade)

Please see question 2 on special grades for undergraduates taking graduate classes.

2. *How does the special grading policy apply to undergraduate students taking graduate courses?*

Answer: The special grading policy will apply to graduate courses that an undergraduate student may take.

However, the choice associated with “C” grades for these courses will be different.

A grade of C can be converted to a special fall grade of “AC” for graduate courses.

Students will have the ability to change a grade of A or B to P (pass)

3. *Is there a limit on the number of courses to which a special grade can be applied?*

Answer: Yes. An undergraduate student may choose a maximum of two courses for which to apply a special grade.

The two course maximum **INCLUDES** any special grading the student receives for courses taken at Rutgers-Newark.

4. Will AC grades count towards degree completion?

Answer: Courses shown on the transcript as AC will count towards graduation/degree completion provided the student does not need a higher grade as a prerequisite for subsequent courses and/or the graduate course is not a core course in the graduate program.

5. When must a student decide on the courses to apply a special grade?

Answer: Undergraduate students will be able to make this decision AFTER grades are released. Therefore, you will be able to first see your original grade before making your decision.

6. What is the process to choose special grading option for the fall 2020 semester?

Answer: After grades are due, students will be invited to visit the “**Fall 2020 Special Final Grading Policy Grade-Change Request Form**” which will allow you to choose to convert a maximum of TWO courses to the fall 2020 special grade.

A special link accessing the form will be posted on the Student Services Highlander Portal.

An email will be sent out from the Registrar’s Office explaining the process, and inviting students to visit the grade selection form.

7. May I opt to keep my original grade for all course?

Answer: Yes. Students have the option of keeping their original grades and foregoing the option of applying a special grade.

For students to be awarded the Presidential Medal, they must have all their actual grades listed on their transcript; as per current policy, an A must be earned in all courses.

8. When will the Special Grade Change form be made available to students?

The form will be available from December 28 until Noon on January 6 (12:00 PM). The form will no longer be available after January 6 at 12:01 PM.

A student will only have one chance to change a grade. Once a grade change is submitted, it cannot be changed again.

Changes will not be allowed beyond the deadline specified.

9. If an Undergraduate student decided to change 1 or 2 courses to a P grade, and receives “A” grades for remaining courses, would their GPA essentially be a 4.0?

Answer: Yes, their GPA will be 4.0.

10. If an undergraduate student chooses to apply the special “P” grade, will Pass courses ever factor into the GPA?

Answer: Pass courses will never be factored into the GPA calculation unless the student retakes the course to get a different grade.

11. If I am retaking a class this semester to replace a previous grade, would the pass/fail option replace the previous semester grade?

Answer: The actual grade must be used for students retaking a course to get a different grade.

12. How will the special grading policy impact academic standing? How will utilizing special grading options affect academic standing for students who are under pre-suspension?

Answer: The special grade will be used to determine academic standing for the Fall 2020 semester.

13. How will incomplete grades received in the Fall 2020 semester be handled related to the special grading policy?

Answer: Grades of Incomplete when substituted with an actual grade will not be changed to any of the NAD, AC, or P designation. The actual letter grade will remain unchanged.

14. How will the grades for courses taken at Rutgers University-Newark be handled?

Answer: Students matriculated at NJIT who enrolled in classes at Rutgers will also have the opportunity to select up to two courses (including Rutgers-Newark courses in which to receive a non-letter designation.

The grades from courses completed at Rutgers-Newark will be transmitted to NJIT, and these grades will be posted on the “[Fall 2020 Special Final Grading Policy Grade-Change Request Form](#)”. A special link accessing the form will be posted on the Student Services Highlander Portal.