



Los Alamitos Unified School District
2020-2021 High School Pass/No Pass Grading Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What does a Pass (P)/No Pass (NP) grade mean and how will it impact my GPA?

A1: Students will receive a mark of Pass “P” if they have met at least the minimum proficiency levels for standards within a course (received a letter grade of “D” or higher). Students who receive a mark of “P” will earn full credit for the course. The P won’t be calculated into the student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA). Students will receive a mark of No Pass “NP” if they have not met the minimum proficiency levels for standards within a course (received a letter grade of “F”). The NP also won’t be calculated into the student’s GPA.

Q2: How do I receive a Pass grade? How do I receive a No Pass grade?

A2: If a student wishes, any or all letter grades of “A, B, C, and D” may be converted to “Pass.” If a student wishes, any or all letter grades of “F” may be converted to “No Pass.” Students who wish to change a letter grade to a Pass/No Pass grade must complete and submit the [Los Alamitos Unified Grade Change Form](#) no later than August 27, 2021.

Q3: Why did Los Al Unified transition to a choice model of Pass/No Pass in lieu of letter grades for high school students for the 2020-2021 school year?

A3: The district moved forward with a choice model of Pass/No Pass for high school students because of [legislation](#) passed by the State of California.

Q4: What should I choose between an earned letter (“A-D”/F) grade or a Pass/No Pass grade?

A4: This may be a difficult decision for students and families. If you have questions, please contact your school counselor to discuss Pass/No Pass grade options.

Q5: Can I change my grade from a letter grade to Pass/No Pass for the first semester and not the second, and vice versa, from the same course?

A5: Yes. Students may request a Pass/No Pass grade request for one, multiple, or all classes by semester.

Q6: Will post-secondary institutions accept, for admission purposes, a transcript with a Pass or No Pass grade instead of a letter grade?

A6: Some higher educational institutions, including those from other states, may not accept a Pass/No Pass grade on a student's transcript. However, here is a [list of post-secondary educational institutions](#) that have indicated to the California Department of Education (CDE) that they will accept Pass/No Pass grades without prejudice. It is important that students/families consult with their college or university to ensure full understanding of a Pass/No Pass grade on one's transcript. Los Alamitos High School guidance counselors cannot advise on the acceptance of Pass/No Pass grades from post-secondary educational institutions.

Q7: Will elementary and middle school students in Los Al Unified also have a choice between letter grades and Pass/No Pass marks?

A7: No. The district is moving forward with a choice model of Pass/No Pass grades for high school students as a result of legislation passed by the State of California. The legislation, [Assembly Bill No. 104](#), does not make this option available to elementary and middle school students.

Q8: What if I want to keep my letter grades for the 2020-2021 school year?

A8: High school students who do not wish to modify their earned letter grades from last school year do not need to take any further action.

Q9: How will Pass/No Pass grades earned during the COVID-19 pandemic impact my ability to be eligible and competitive for a California State University (CSU) school?

A9: The CSU has temporarily suspended the letter grade requirements for "a-g" courses completed in the spring, summer and fall 2020 terms and spring, and summer 2021 terms. This means that for Fall 2022 and future admission cycles, for courses you took in high school during these terms, Pass and Credit grades will satisfy completion of "a-g" requirements. (Source: [The California State University Website](#))

Q10: How will Pass/No Pass grades earned during the COVID-19 pandemic impact my ability to be eligible and competitive for a University of California (UC) school?

A10: For a University of California school, Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades earned in spring, summer, and fall 2020, as well as spring and summer 2021, will meet "a-g" requirements for any student who was enrolled in high school during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years. This includes students currently enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

UC campus admission offices are mindful of the many obstacles students and schools alike are currently facing. Nonetheless, UC strongly encourages potential applicants to take, whenever possible, "a-g" courses for letter grades, especially those in English and mathematics, as well as those in prospective major fields. (Source: [University of California Website](#))

Q11: How will Pass/No Pass marks affect eligibility for athletics and performance groups at the high school level?

A11: Eligibility criteria for California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) athletics and performance groups for next fall will be earning a passing grade (A-D) or “P” (Pass) in at least 4 courses each semester.

Q12: How will the Eligibility Center approach high schools that issue Pass/No Pass grades in the 2020-2021 school year?

A12: For NCAA-approved core courses completed in 2020-21 and/or 2021-22 that have been issued a grade of Pass, the NCAA Eligibility Center will apply the credit earned in these courses toward the core-course requirement in the student's certification. If the student's core-course GPA would increase by assigning a value of 2.300, this value will be assigned to the Passed courses. However, if the student's core-course GPA would decrease by including the 2.300 value for Passed courses, the student's core-course GPA will be calculated based only on courses with assigned letter grades from previous terms (credit from these courses will still be applied toward the student's core course requirements). Note: This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who successfully complete NCAA-approved pass/fail core courses in 2020-21 and 2021-22. (Source: [NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs](#))