



PETITION FOR AN EXCEPTION TO PASS/FAIL REGULATIONS

Humanities & Fine Arts
Advising Center
E-20 Machmer Hall
413.545.6152

FOR STUDENTS WITH DECLARED MAJORS IN THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & FINE ARTS

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT:

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT ID#: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

PHONE: _____ MAJOR: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

COURSE INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT: _____ COURSE #: _____ SECTION #: _____

TITLE: _____ SEMESTER: _____

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: _____

REASON FOR REQUEST

Read the Pass/Fail guidelines, then use this space and/or additional sheets to explain the reasons for your request:

DEAN'S OFFICE USE ONLY

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

DENIED: _____ DATE: _____

TABLED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS:



University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Pass/Fail Regulations

The purpose of the Pass/Fail option is to encourage students to be venturesome in the choice of their courses. Any undergraduate shall be eligible to exercise a Pass/Fail option in one course each term. Winter and each summer session count as individual terms. Students electing courses offered on a mandatory Pass/Fail basis (e.g., UMASS 298Y) shall also be allowed to take one additional, normally graded course that semester on a Pass/Fail basis.

A.) Pass/Fail Limits

1. Students subject to the University's General Education requirements may not fulfill any of those requirements by a course for which a "Pass" grade (P) is recorded. Students should not elect the Pass/Fail option for courses that they wish to count toward their General Education requirements.
2. The University's writing requirements may not be elected Pass/Fail.
3. Some majors prohibit using the pass/Fail option to fulfill their requirements.
4. Students wishing to exercise the Pass/Fail option must do so by the mid-point of the semester.
5. Each School, College, or Division of the University is authorized to formulate and enforce its own Pass/Fail regulations concerning the number of such courses allowed beyond one course per term, up to and including 15 optional Pass/Fail courses in a student's academic career. In schools or colleges where the limit is one elective Pass/Fail course per term, students who erroneously sign up for two or more elective Pass/Fail courses will have the Pass/Fail deleted from the course(s) carrying the higher class number (as designated in the online Schedule of Classes). The pass/Fail option is not cumulative (i.e., students who do not exercise the Pass/Fail option in any given semester may not therefore enroll in two normally graded courses on a Pass/Fail basis in any one subsequent semester.

B.) Recording the Pass/Fail Option

When students choose to take a course with the Pass/Fail option, the instructor will not be informed. At the end of the semester the instructor will turn in the letter grade earned. If the grade is F, it is factored in. If the student receives a passing grade, an initial computation of the cumulative average will be made. This average will include all graded courses from prior semesters as well as graded courses from the current semester. If the course elected Pass/Fail during the current semester carries a grade higher than the initially computed cumulative average, the reported grade will be recorded and the cumulative average recomputed; otherwise the P or F will be recorded. (A grade of P is not assigned any quality points and does not enter into the computation of the cumulative average; the grade of F is always assigned 0.0 quality points and is used in computing the cumulative average.) A student may opt for the grade, even if it lowers his or her cumulative average, or a student may opt for a pass, even after the Registrar has changed a pass to a grade because it raised the student's average. Students may request this change at any time prior to graduation by completing a "Revoke Pass/Fail" form available in 213 Whitmore. Once the student is graduated, the transcript is considered closed.