

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR
PASS/FAIL GRADES IN FALL 2020 FOR POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS

Updated as of 12/11/2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Postsecondary Students (TOPS Recipients and Non-TOPS Recipients):

The Board of Regents recognizes that these are extraordinary circumstances affecting all of us. Here is some advice about how to handle P/F credit. Note that some institutions are responding to the COVID19/Hurricane situation by amending or suspending some of their academic rules and regulations. It is strongly advised that you connect with the Registrar's Office or Advisor/Counselor at your institution if you have questions regarding how P/F grading impacts your record.

When do students need to inform their professors that they wish to receive P/F credit on a course?
In most circumstances, students must usually inform their professors of their intention to receive P/F credit by the last day to add classes. However, in light of circumstances involving COVID-19 and multiple hurricanes affecting Louisiana, it's possible some institutions may revisit their policies concerning this. Please contact your institution to determine if your school is offering a P/F option and to learn about the deadlines associated with choosing a P/F option.

How do P/F grades impact my GPA?

A P(PASS) grade counts as a completed grade and has no impact on your GPA. If you are on probation and need to raise your GPA, a P grade will not move your GPA up or down. A grade of F (FAIL) impacts your GPA as a failing grade.

Is there a limit to the number of P/F grades that a student can receive?

Contact the Office of the Registrar at your institution or refer to the General Catalog of your institution.

Do P/F grades transfer from one institution to another?

P/F grades may or may not be transferrable. It is recommended that you check with the institution that you plan to transfer to in order to know for certain. The Registrar's Office of the institution you plan to transfer to will be able to answer that question.

Post-Secondary Students - TOPS Recipients only:

How will a Pass or Fail Grading system affect my GPA?

There is no numeric value assigned to Pass grades, but Fail Grades receive 0 quality points. If you receive all passing grades in the fall semester of 2020, your grade point average will be the same as it was at the end of the last semester during which you received actual letter grades.

For example, if you received "P" grades during the spring semester of 2020 due to COVID 19, and you receive "P" grades in the fall semester of 2020, your GPA will remain the same as your Fall 2019 semester

GPA. If you receive one or more Fail grades, your GPA will be lowered, as Fail grades receive 0 quality points.

If you received “P” grades during the spring semester of 2020, and you attended summer school and received letter grades, your cumulative GPA after the end of fall 2020 will be the same as it was at the end of the summer of 2020 if you receive all “P” grades during the fall semester of 2020. If you receive one or more “F” grades, your GPA will be lowered as Fail grades receive 0 quality points.

The fall semester of 2020 was the first time I enrolled in college. If I elect to receive Pass/Fail grades for the fall semester, will I still be eligible for TOPS in spring 2021?

It depends. As explained above, there is no numeric value assigned to “P” grades, but “F” grades receive 0 quality points. In order to be eligible for TOPS for the spring semester of 2021, you must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 at the end of the fall semester of 2020, or no grade point average. If you have dual enrollment grades from courses for which you earned college credit while in high school, those grades will be factored into your GPA to determine whether you are eligible for TOPS for the spring semester of 2021.

If you do not have dual enrollment grades, and you receive all "P" grades for the fall semester of 2020, you will not have a grade point average, and you will be eligible for TOPS for Spring 2021.

You should check your Student Hub account at <https://mylosfa.la.gov/applications/student-hub/> to verify whether any dual enrollment grades that you earned in high school have been reported to LOSFA. If they have not, you should contact the college where you earned dual enrollment grades and ask them to report those grades to LOSFA.

I am a TOPS Opportunity recipient whose GPA was below 2.30 at the end of Fall 2019, and I received all Passing grades at the end of the spring semester of 2020 because of COVID-19. How will Pass or Fail affect me this fall semester?

If you did not attend summer school, your GPA will remain below 2.30. The legislation, passed during the 2020 spring semester, waived the requirement to earn a 2.30 at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year in order to continue receiving a TOPS Award. That waiver does not apply for the 2020-2021 academic year, so you must bring your grades up to at least a 2.30 by the end of summer 2021 (2.50 if you have earned 48 hours by the end of the summer 2021) in order to retain your TOPS UNLESS your school or home of record was in a parish affected by Hurricane Laura and/or Hurricane Delta.

I was at the end of my two-year TOPS award suspension at the end of the spring semester of 2020, and I earned all Pass grades. I know that I had an additional semester to bring my grades up because of COVID-19, but I will be receiving all Pass grades for the fall semester of 2020 as well. What happens to my award?

Since there is no numeric value assigned to Pass grades, the Pass grades will not boost your GPA. The fall semester of 2020 was your final opportunity to bring your grades up to a 2.50 to reinstate your TOPS Award. Since that will not happen with Pass grades, your TOPS Award will be permanently canceled.

I am a TOPS Honors award recipient whose GPA was below a 3.0 at the end of the fall semester of 2019, and my school awarded Pass/Fail grades for the spring semester of 2020. I was allowed to keep my Honors Award due to waivers provided because of COVID-19. Has this waiver been extended to the 2020-2021 Academic Year?

The waiver provided for the 2019-2020 academic year was provided to all students because of steps taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. That waiver has not been extended at this time **UNLESS** your school or home of record was in a parish affected by Hurricane Laura and/or Hurricane Delta.

My home was in a parish affected by Hurricane Laura. I am a TOPS recipient and I received all Passing grades at the end of the spring semester of 2020 because of COVID-19. How will Pass or Fail affect me this fall semester?

If your school or your home of record was in one of the 21 parishes affected by Hurricane Laura and/or Hurricane Delta, your GPA requirement has been waived for the 2020-2021 academic year if you were unable to enroll or complete school due to the hurricanes. You have until the end of Fall 2021 to bring your GPA up if you are facing TOPS award suspension or cancellation.

The 21 affected parishes are Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lasalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermillion, Vernon, and Winn Parish.

THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE UPDATED AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.