

Undergraduate Pass/Fail Protocols - Fall 2020  
FAQ for Undergraduate Students in the College of Engineering  
Updated: 12-11-2020

This FAQ addresses issues that are specific to undergraduate and graduate engineering and engineering technology students. This should be used in conjunction with the University [Fall 2020 Grading and Academic Policy Changes](#).

***Will taking a course pass/fail affect my ability to become licensed as a Professional Engineer (PE)?***

The starting point to becoming licensed as a Professional Engineer is to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, or for most states, including Maine, a Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from an ABET-accredited program. All of UMaine's engineering and engineering technology B.S. degrees are ABET-accredited. The grades that you earn, be they conventional letter grades or pass/fail grades, will not affect your ability to become a Professional Engineer, provided you satisfy all graduation requirements and earn your B.S. degree.

***Will taking a course pass/fail affect my ability to become licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS)?***

Clarification has been sought from the Maine Board of Licensure for Professional Land Surveyors. This FAQ will be updated when a response is received.

***Will a course taken pass/fail satisfy the course requirements for a program of study for a degree in engineering or engineering technology?***

Yes, provided a grade of "P" or "LP" is earned. The exception is for courses that have minimum grade requirements, in which case a grade of "P" may be required (not "LP").

***Will a course taken pass/fail satisfy the requirements for a minor within the college?***

Yes, provided a grade of "P" or "LP" is earned. The exception is some minors have minimum grade requirements for courses used toward the minor, in which case a grade of "P" may be required (not "LP" or "F").

***Will a grade of “P” in a course taken pass/fail satisfy a C or C- prerequisite requirement of a follow on course?***

Yes.

***Will a grade of “LP”, which is the equivalent of a letter grade of D+, D, or D-, in a course taken pass/fail satisfy a C or C- prerequisite requirement of a follow on course?***

No.

***Will taking a course Pass/Fail affect my ability to meet entrance requirements for engineering graduate school?***

It depends on your overall performance as an undergraduate student. If your cumulative GPA is high and your overall undergraduate record is strong, then grades of “P” should not affect your ability to be admitted into graduate school. However, if your cumulative GPA is low or your performance in some of your courses has been subpar, then it would be to your advantage to take the course for a letter grade, demonstrate strong performance in the course, and improve your GPA.

There is not a specific cumulative GPA that is the minimum for acceptance into graduate school. A GPA of 3.0 is often considered as a lower bound, but a GPA higher is sometimes required and in all cases would be beneficial.

***What if I’m taking a 400 level engineering course and I want that course to count toward an M.S. degree or for both my B.S. degree and M.S. degree?***

Do not take the course pass/fail. Instead stick with a traditional letter grade. Normally graduate credit is only counted for grades of B or higher.

***What if I’m in Army ROTC?***

You may take courses pass/fail subject to the guidance given above.

***What if I’m in Navy ROTC?***

You should consult with your NROTC Staff Advisor before taking any courses pass/fail.