Update on Temporary P/NP Policy
Implications and Implementation

UAAC Meeting
April 9, 2020 Update

Shawn Boyne
Director of Academic Quality and Undergraduate Education
Topics

1. Eligibility issues
2. Financial Issues
3. Career Planning Related Issues
4. International Students
5. Tentative P/NP Designation Process & Timing
6. Additional Implications of Temporary Policy Currently Being Discussed
First things first

• If your college or program has developed its own detailed advice for advisors, please follow that policy.
ELIGIBILITY ISSUES
A. Concurrent Students

- **Undergraduate students** enrolled in 400 level courses or below, may elect to change to the P/NP designation following the grading policy for undergraduates.
  - Letter grade of D- and above will convert to P
  - Letter grade of F will convert to NP
- **Undergraduate students** enrolled in 500-level or above courses may elect to change to the P/NP designation. However, they must follow the grading policy of the Graduate College.
  - Letter grade of C and above will convert to P
  - Letter grade of C- and below will convert to NP
B. Students in Courses Previously Designated as an Online Course

• The **temporary P/NP policy** applies to courses **intended to be taught in-person** throughout Spring 2020, but which were **changed to virtual instruction** as a result of COVID-19.

• It DOES NOT apply to courses previously designated to be taught online. [Policy being reviewed]

• It DOES NOT apply to courses where the S/F grade option was selected.

• It DOES NOT apply to Distance education courses with an X designation.

• It DOES NOT apply to grades of INCOMPLETE.
C. Students Currently Repeating a Course under the Designated Repeat Policy

- Students currently enrolled in a course as a designated repeat, may use the letter grade earned or a P designation to replace the previous grade.

- The letter grade will average in to GPA, however the P grade will not.
FINANCIAL ISSUES
A. Scholarships

- Students who receive Iowa State admissions scholarships that require them to successfully complete 12 credits per term with a specific minimum GPA may change to P/NP without penalty.

- This semester’s GPA will not be considered in OFA review of a student’s eligibility for renewal of their scholarship. Students who had a cumulative GPA below 2.0 at the beginning of the Spring 2020 semester and had hoped to use this semester to bring their GPA up to meet the required minimum GPA will not lose their scholarship if their cumulative GPA at the end of the Spring 2020 semester remains below the required minimum.
Scholarships (Part II)

• However, students who begin the 2020-21 academic year with a GPA **below 2.0** will need to elevate their GPA above the minimum threshold by the end of Spring 2021 to maintain their scholarship.

• Please note, we do not know yet whether this same policy will apply to the Science Bound, Hixson, Multi-cultural Vision Program, and George Washington Carver programs.

• **Source:** Office of Student Financial Aid
B. Pell Grant Recipients

- CAVEAT: These issues are complicated and the student should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid for Guidance.

- I have included a few slides that follow that attempt to sort through these issues. I will not review them here.
i. Title IV Federal Aid [Pell Grants]

• The Pell Grant enrollment requirement will vary by the student’s expected Family Contribution (EFC).
  
  • Some students have a low enough EFC to receive a reduced Pell Grant at 3 credit hours.
  • Students with a higher EFC may need to maintain at least 6 or 9 credit hours to receive a reduced Pell Grant.

• For SAP (Federal Satisfactory Academic Process) purposes, students do need to pass at least one course to confirm disbursed financial aid was earned.

• If a student earns all NP grades, they will only be unofficially withdrawn if their last date of attendance is before the 60% date of the semester.

• [SOURCE: Office of Student Financial Aid]
ii. Title IV Federal Aid [Pell Grants] (cont.)

- Students who are **unofficially withdrawn** will owe disbursed Federal financial aid back on their U-Bill, and the student’s last date of attendance will be used to calculate the unearned financial aid amount.

- Students who earn all NP grades and have a last date of attendance on or after the 60% point of the semester **will not** owe financial aid back to ISU because their financial aid is considered earned, and they are not unofficially withdrawn.

- [SOURCE: Office of Student Financial Aid]
CAREER PLANNING-RELATED ISSUES
A. Students Planning to Attend Graduate/Professional School

• Students who intend to apply to post-graduate programs should discuss the potential impact of P/NP designation on their application for graduate and professional programs

• Typically, many health professional schools (e.g., medical, dental, veterinary) will not accept P/NP grades for key courses
B. Students Seeking to Meet Certification or Licensing Requirements

- Students in the teacher education program are governed by State of Iowa licensing requirements (Iowa Administrative Code).
- Guidance and clarification for these students and advisers is being developed in collaboration with Heidi Doellinger.
  - More information will be shared soon
- Other licensing/certification bodies may have P/NP limits as well. (I.e. Accounting)
C. Students in ROTC programs

- Every service has different rules so students should consult their ROTC advisor.
- In general, the U.S. Army has a more liberal policy for Spring 2020 in terms of allowing students to take P/NP.
- The Navy and Airforce have course-related restrictions on P/NP. Taking the P/NP option could adversely affect eligibility for certain future programs so students should consult with their ROTC advisor.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
International Students

- International students holding F-1 or J-1 visa status at Iowa State must consult with an Immigration Services Advisor at the International Students and Scholars Office before withdrawing from a class or requesting the P/NP option.
TENTATIVE PROCESS
Tentative Process & Timing

- Students consult with Adviser during Spring semester to discuss options and implications of P/NP. Advisers may reach out now to students.
- Final grades post May 12.

- After May 13: **Students view Grades in Access+**
  - Students click on a link in Access+ requesting P/NP grade change option for eligible courses between May 13th and May 19th at 5:00 p.m.

- **Graduate Students** must confirm that they consulted with their advisor about the ramifications of selecting P/NP grades.

- **Undergraduate students and VetMed students** need **not** meet with their advisor prior to selecting the P/NP option.
Additional Implications of Temporary Policy Currently being Discussed

- Impact on academic standing (probation) status
- Dean’s List
- Students already in P/NP Option prior to March 20 when temporary policy became effective
For More Information

- **SVPP website** will serve as the single point of contact for information
  - Undergraduate student policy
  - Graduate student policy
  - Professional student policy (Vet Med)
- **FAQ**
  - posted March 23; will be updated
- **Additional information** (i.e. this presentation)
  - Posted on SVPP website
  - Distributed via listserv and UAAC
Possible P/NP Advising Checklist: If no college-level advice

- Which courses are eligible for P/NP?
- Does student intend on applying to Grad/Professional School?
- Licensure/certification issues?
- Financial Aid or Scholarship Issues?
- Concurrent Student?
- Advise of Timing Constraints.
Thank you for the extraordinary role you are playing in helping our students stay strong during this time.