

To: The University Senate
From: The Educational Policy Committee
Subject: Request to Transition to Pass/Not Pass Grading for the Fourth Year of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Curriculum
Reference: [Academic Regulations on Grades and Grade Reports, Section C: Pass/Not Pass Option.](#)
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

Rationale: The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine is a four-year professional program in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The fourth year consists of clinical rotations in the authentic workplace of the on-campus veterinary hospital and off-campus locations. Student assessment in the clinical environment is inherently subjective. The focus of student assessment in the fourth year is determining competence. Rather than assigning a letter grade, it is more appropriate to determine if the student is competent performing various skills and procedures and making decisions regarding case management. Most medical schools and many veterinary schools use Pass/Fail grading systems for their clinical rotations.

Clinical rotations account for 48 of the 165.5 credits in the DVM program, which is 29%. The DVM curriculum currently has 18.5 credits of courses (problem-based learning courses and clinical skills courses) that are graded Pass/Not Pass. Changing the clinical year grading to Pass/Not Pass would result in 66.5 credits (40%) of the DVM curriculum being graded Pass/Not Pass.

University regulations state that *students* may not elect the Pass/Not Pass option for more than 20% of the 120-credit requirement for graduation (this appears to apply to undergraduates). University regulations also state that a department or school may specify that certain courses intended only for students in that department or school are available only on the Pass/Not Pass option. DVM clinical rotations are intended only for DVM students and thus satisfy this criterion. We request approval to change the grading in our clinical curriculum to Pass/Not Pass grading.

Proposal: The University Senate approves modification of grading for the fourth year of the DVM professional program to Pass/Not Pass grading.

As per other changes to the academic regulations, changes will be made by the Office of the Registrar, and reviewed for completeness by the Educational Policy Committee of the University Senate.

Current language	Proposed language
<p data-bbox="203 457 797 888">C. Pass / Not-Pass Option In order to provide students with the opportunity to broaden their educational foundations with minimum concern for grades, an alternative grading system, the pass/not-pass option, is established. Students will register for the pass/not-pass option in accordance with “Academic Regulations and Procedures: Registration and Course Assignment,” section A (University Senate Document 73-6, January 28, 1974).</p> <ol data-bbox="253 926 792 1896" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="253 926 792 1539">1. The option is open to all students in the University subject to the regulations of the school in which the student is enrolled. In particular, the school will specify under what conditions a course that is passed under this option may be used to satisfy its graduation requirements. A department or school may specify that certain courses intended only for students in that department or school are available only on the pass/not-pass option (University Senate Document 75-10, as amended and approved, April 19, 1976).<li data-bbox="253 1577 792 1896">2. Subject to the regulations of his/her school, a student may elect this option in any course that does not already appear on his/her academic record and in which he/she is otherwise eligible to enroll for credit with letter grade. A student may not elect this option for more than 20 percent of the	<p data-bbox="826 457 1421 888">C. Pass / Not-Pass Option In order to provide students with the opportunity to broaden their educational foundations with minimum concern for grades, an alternative grading system, the pass/not-pass option, is established. Students will register for the pass/not-pass option in accordance with “Academic Regulations and Procedures: Registration and Course Assignment,” section A (University Senate Document 73-6, January 28, 1974).</p> <ol data-bbox="876 926 1399 1896" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="876 926 1399 1539">1. The option is open to all students in the University subject to the regulations of the school in which the student is enrolled. In particular, the school will specify under what conditions a course that is passed under this option may be used to satisfy its graduation requirements. A department or school may specify that certain courses intended only for students in that department or school are available only on the pass/not-pass option (University Senate Document 75-10, as amended and approved, April 19, 1976).<li data-bbox="876 1577 1399 1896">2. Subject to the regulations of their school, students may elect this option in any course that does not already appear on their academic record and in which they are otherwise eligible to enroll for credit with letter grade. A student may not elect this option for more than 20 percent of the total credit

<p>total credit hours required for graduation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The registrar's class roster will indicate which students have elected this option. 4. A student who is enrolled in a course under this option has the same obligations as those who are enrolled in the course for credit with letter grade. When the instructor reports final grades in the course, he/she will report that any such student who would have earned a grade of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, or C- has passed the course, and that any other such student has not passed. The registrar will make an appropriate notation on the student's academic record in place of a letter grade, but will not use the course in computing GPA. 	<p>hours required for graduation. Schools with Professional degree programs may elect to modify grading options to Pass / Not Pass for clinical experiences even if the percent of Pass / Not-Pass credits exceeds 20 percent of the total credit hours required for graduation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The registrar's class roster will indicate which students have elected this option. 4. A student who is enrolled in a course under this option has the same obligations as those who are enrolled in the course for credit with letter grade. When reporting final grades in the course, the instructor will report that any such student who would have earned a grade of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, or C- has passed the course, and that any other such student has not passed. The registrar will make an appropriate notation on the student's academic record in place of a letter grade, but will not use the course in computing GPA.
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Committee Votes:

For:

Faculty

Thomas Brush
Jennifer Freeman
Eric Kvam (chair)
Antônio Sá Barreto
Steven Scott
John Sheffield
Thomas Siegmund
Howard Sypher
Jeffrey Watt

Advisors

Jeff Elliott
Keith Gehres
Jenna Rickus
Jeffery Stefancic

Against:

N/A

Abstained:

N/A

Absent:

Faculty

Burton Lee Artz
Todor Cooklev
Muhsin Menekse
Erik Otárola-Castillo

Students

Elli DiDonna
Izzy Weber