Pass/ILL Grading Option: Frequently Asked Questions
March 27, 2020

What does this mean for my grades?
As per the University’s announcement on March 26, this added option means you get to choose whether to receive letter grades or P/ILL grades for each of your courses. After final grades are posted on DalOnline, you will be able to review your grades and decide how to proceed.

If you receive a passing grade in a course, you can keep the assigned letter grade OR apply to the Assistant Dean to have your grade changed to “P” (“Pass”). A grade of P gives you credit for the course and is GPA-neutral. If you do not receive a passing grade in a course, you can keep the assigned letter grade OR apply to have your “F” switched to “ILL” (“Compassionate reasons, illness”). A grade of ILL does not give you credit for the course and is GPA-neutral. See below for more information on P/ILL grades.

The DSU is in ongoing communication with the university to advocate for an opt-in process that is as accessible and student-focused as possible. We are working to ensure that this new option does not disadvantage any student.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns about this University announcement or input into DSU lobbying efforts, contact Vice President of Academic and External Hasan Sinan at dsuvpae@dal.ca.

What if I already withdrew from a class, or I still want to withdraw from a class?
The University is advising anyone who recently withdrew from a class who is interested in changing that decision to reach out to the Bissett Student Success Centre.

The University has already extended the deadline to withdraw with a “W” until March 30. The DSU continues to advocate for the deadline to withdraw without a “W” to be extended to April 24.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns or input, contact Vice President of Academic and External Hasan Sinan at dsuvpae@dal.ca.

How do I opt in to P/ILL grading?
The University announced on March 26 that after final grades are posted on DalOnline, students will be able to apply to the Assistant Dean to have P/ILL grading applied to specific courses of their choosing.

The University has not yet announced the specific process for making these applications. The DSU is advocating for this process to be as easy and accessible...
as possible, and for no students to be left behind or disadvantaged.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns or input, contact Vice President of Academic and External Hasan Sinan at dsuvpae@dal.ca

What does an ILL grade mean?
The Dalhousie Grade Scale and Definitions define ILL as “Compassionate reasons, illness” and state that its grade point value is “Neutral and no credit obtained.” Under the P/ILL grading option, you can apply to have any non-passing grades (i.e., “F”) replaced with ILL grades once final grades are posted on DalOnline. This means that you would receive no credit for that course, but the grade will not negatively affect your GPA or academic standing.

To further contextualize ILL grades, the DSU is continuing to call on the University to add a note to all students’ academic transcripts for this semester about the unique learning circumstances caused by COVID-19.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns or input, contact Vice President of Academic and External Hasan Sinan at dsuvpae@dal.ca

What does a P grade mean?
The Dalhousie Grade Scale and Definitions define P as “Pass” and state that its grade point value is “Neutral.” Under the P/ILL grading option, you can apply to have any passing grades (i.e., A through D range grades, excepting D in the case of programs which require a C to pass) replaced with P grades once final grades are posted on DalOnline. This means that you would receive credit for the course, but your letter grade would not be shown on your academic record or transcript and would not affect your GPA.

To support students’ academic success, the DSU is also advocating for more flexibility on final exams and assessments. Even under these unique circumstances, students should have every opportunity possible to succeed in their studies.

To further contextualize P grades, the DSU is continuing to call on the University to add a note to all students’ academic transcripts for this semester about the unique learning circumstances caused by COVID-19.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns or input, contact Vice President of Academic and External Hasan Sinan at dsuvpae@dal.ca

Will I be forced to be graded using P/ILL?
The University’s announcement on March 26 specified that the P/ILL grading option would not be imposed on students. Letter grades will remain the default grading option and students must apply to have grades for individual courses switched to P/ILL grading once final grades are released on DalOnline.

The DSU is advocating for students in this time and is committed to ensuring no student is disadvantaged by this new option.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns or input, contact Vice
How will this affect my GPA?
As per the University’s announcement on March 26, letter grades will remain the default grading option and students will need to opt in to the P/ILL grading option. If you choose to keep your letter grades, they will be applied to your GPA as usual. If you choose to opt in to the P/ILL grading option for any course, your grade in that course will not affect your GPA.

To further contextualize P grades, the DSU is continuing to call on the University to add a note to all students’ academic transcripts for this semester about the unique learning circumstances caused by COVID-19.

See our full list of recommendations here. If you have concerns or input, contact Vice President of Academic and External Hasan Sinan at dsuvpae@dal.ca