

From: Grabowski, Joseph J <joeg@pitt.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Maleckar, Susan Kay <smaleckar@pitt.edu>; Bandik, George C <bandik@pitt.edu>
Subject: Pre-med advising question

Hi Susan, George:

Before I pester the 'pre-med advisors', have either of you received any concrete recommendations about LG to S conversions for students expecting to apply to a professional school? To me, if it is an A (even a A-), I keep the A. If it is C- or less, I take the NC. (If I'm not planning on grad or professional school immediately after my BS, I might keep a C-, depending.... – but I'm not really asking about those types of students) But what about B+ through C?

Based on what I have seen, all spring grades should be tagged with the infamous asterisk. (My personal goal was to work to avoid that – I no longer believe that is a legitimate outcome.)

Cheers,
Joe G.

From: Bandik, George C <bandik@pitt.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Grabowski, Joseph J <joeg@pitt.edu>
Cc: Fischer, Derek J <djf63@pitt.edu>
Subject: RE: Pre-med advising question

Gret question and I have not heard of anything. I am including Derek on this. He may have through the advising office. I have been telling kids to keep anything about a B as a letter grade. I also tell them that is my advice as someone who is not on an admissions committee.

George

From: Fischer, Derek J
Sent: 05/04/2020 12:35 PM
To: Bandik, George C <bandik@pitt.edu>; Grabowski, Joseph J <joeg@pitt.edu>
Subject: RE: Pre-med advising question

Hi, Joe and George.

Thanks for looping me in to this conversation. The short answer is that there is not a "one-size-fits-all" answer out there. The answers will likely depend a lot on the type of program a student is applying to (ex: PA vs Med School vs VET school vs Law School vs PT school, etc. etc.). There is also likely to be some variance amongst specific schools/colleges within those "school types." The Pitt Interprofessional Center for Health Careers Advising Center (formerly known as Pre-Health or Pre-Med Advising) created the attached document that we've been using as an advisor resource and sharing with students, when appropriate. This might be helpful for you. We've also been making a lot of referrals to their advising staff:

<https://www.provost.pitt.edu/students/undergraduate-studies/interprofessional-center-health-careers/meet-pic-health-careers-team>

I've been thinking a lot about the very questions that Joe proposed and came across this article from a University of Virginia periodical that I think helps illustrate the complexity of this issue: <https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2020/04/graduate-schools-nationwide-adjust-to-changing-admissions-landscape>. I'm sharing in case you want to read through it.

Each student's situation is so different that it is difficult to even begin to formulate a "general strategy" for advising. One that I've come across suggested that a student should consider their overall GPA when making the decision and essentially opt for the S grade when the LG earned would be anything lower than what their overall GPA is. For example, if a student has a cumulative 3.25, they should keep any LG above that line (B+ and higher) but convert anything below that line (B or lower) to the S (assuming that it's at least a C since a C- or lower would revert to an NC). However, in my opinion, there are potential problems with that line of thinking/decision making process.

While it's sometimes a lot of work, we encourage students to identify a few of the schools that they might be interested in attending to see if they can find a policy about S/NC. I know that some programs (mostly medical schools) will accept an S grade but if the university gave the student an option for a letter grade or S/NC and didn't automatically convert all grades to S/NC (or more commonly called Pass/Fail at other institutions) that the applicant had to submit a written explanation of why they opted for the S grade.

Not sure if this is helpful at all but again, there isn't "a way" or "right way" for each student to proceed. I think it's very individualized and depending on the student's specific circumstance.

Derek Fischer

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Information for Advising Pre-Health Students on S/NC Grade Option

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine will accept S/NC for courses taken in spring 2020 term only. The only exception is for students in the Guaranteed Admissions Program (GAP) and Summer Pre-medical Academic Enrichment Program (SPAEP) Early Assurance. GAP students must receive letter grades. SPAEP Early Assurance students must have receive letter grades unless their college/university does not offer a letter grade option and only offers S/NC (or P/F).

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy will accept S/NC

University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will accept S/NC

University of Alabama: tips for individual situations

https://www.uab.edu/medicine/home/images/future_student/student_advice_letters/FAQs_covid19_040920.pdf

University of California, San Diego will accept P/F for spring 2020 courses, with no preference for letter grades. See <https://medschool.ucsd.edu/admissions/Pages/default.aspx>

University of California, San Francisco will accept P/F for spring 2020 courses, no preference for letter grades. May apply prior to taking the MCAT. See <https://meded.ucsf.edu/admissions-md-program>.

University of Florida will accept P/F for spring 2020, no preference for letter grades. See <https://admissions.med.ufl.edu/admission-requirements/regular-admission-requirements/>

University of Kansas prefers letter grades, but will accept P/F for courses taken in spring 2020 only. See <http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/education/admissions/premedical-requirements.html>

University of Kentucky will accept P/F for prerequisite courses taken in spring 2020. See <https://meded.med.uky.edu/how-apply>

University of Louisville will accept P/F for courses taken in spring 2020 only. No preference for letter grades is stated. <https://louisville.edu/medicine/admissions/app-process/complete-prerequisites>

Boston University School of Medicine is offering some flexibility and provides tips at <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/admissions/application-process/>

Central Michigan University is accepting P/F (or credit/no credit) for courses completed in spring 2020 only. They do not state a preference for letter grades. See <https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/med/Education/MD/Admissions/Prospective/Pages/Req.aspx>

University of Michigan will accept P/F whether mandated or personal decision. <https://medicine.umich.edu/medschool/education/md-program/md-admissions/requirements>

Wayne State: Strongly recommend letter grades
<https://www.med.wayne.edu/admissions/preparation>

University of Minnesota: Will accept P/F
<https://med.umn.edu/admissions>

University of Missouri-Columbia: Strongly recommend letter grades
<https://medicine.missouri.edu/education/admissions/md-application-requirements>

Washington University in St. Louis: Accepting P/F, no preference for letter grades
<https://mdadmissions.wustl.edu/how-to-apply/requirements/>

Rutgers: Accepting P/F, did not indicate preference for letter grades.

University of Nevada-Las Vegas: Will accept P/F
<https://www.unlv.edu/medicine/applicants>

University of Nevada-Reno: Will accept P/F
<https://med.unr.edu/md-admissions/md-program/application-requirements>

Albany College: Will accept P/F grades for the Spring 2020 semester per email communication

Cornell: Will accept P/F for Spring 2020
<https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/admissions/selection-criteria-requirements>

University of Rochester: prefers letter grades, but will accept P/F
<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/md/admissions/apply.aspx>

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill: Will accept P/F
<https://www.med.unc.edu/admit/requirements/academic-requirements/>

Wake Forest: Accepting P/F (no preference for letter grades) if BCPM is 3.2
<https://school.wakehealth.edu/Education-and-Training/MD-Program/Application-Requirements-and-Technical-Standards>

Case Western Reserve University prefers letter grades, but will accept up to 10hrs of P/F for BCPM from spring 2020 only. See <https://case.edu/medicine/admissions-programs/md-programs>

The University of Pennsylvania prefers letter grades. Any applicant who was provided the option to continue with the typical grading system but elected P/F for prerequisite courses will be required to provide a written explanation of his/her decision on the secondary application. See <https://www.med.upenn.edu/admissions/admissions.html>

University of South Carolina-Greenville: Will accept P/F Spring 2020, no preference for letter grades
https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/medicine_greenville/admissions/index.php

All Texas Schools: Will accept P/F Spring 2020, no preference for letter grades
<https://www.txhes.com/newsroom/updates/tmdsas-covid-impacts-ey21.html>

University of Utah: Will accept P/F Spring 2020, no preference for letter grades
<https://medicine.utah.edu/students/programs/md/admissions/where-to-begin.php>

University of Virginia: Will accept P/F, no preference for letter grades
<https://med.virginia.edu/admissions/>

West Virginia University: <https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/md-admissions/how-is-covid-19-affecting-admissions-at-the-wvu-school-of-medicine/>

University of Wisconsin: prefers letter grades, especially if BCPM
<https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/md-program/admissions/covid-19-admissions-changes/>