

## Memorandum

To: University Academic Affairs Committee (UAAC)  
From: Courtney Clayton, Associate Dean, College of Education  
Date: 11/8/17  
Subject: Pass/Fail Requirements

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The College of Education is requesting to change the policy regarding pass/fail requirements. Current language regarding pass/fail grades from the UMW Undergraduate Catalog 2017-2018, page 73, is copied below, with the requested addition from COE added in red:

A student may take one course each semester, or during a complete summer session, on a pass/fail basis, up to a maximum of eight pass/ fail courses. B.L.S. students may take a maximum of 20% of courses (electives only) on a pass/fail basis. For such courses a grade of PA (pass) or FA (failure) is recorded; a grade of PA does not affect the grade-point average, but a grade of FA counts the same as an F in a graded course and will lower the grade-point average. Performance required to “pass” in a pass/fail course is the same as the performance required to “pass” in a graded course – i.e., D or better. Courses taken pass/fail can be used only for elective credits; they cannot be used to fulfill Major Program or General Education Goal requirements (with the exception of Experiential Learning requirement), ~~or~~ General Education Across-the-Curriculum requirements, **or to fulfill teacher licensure course requirements**. Students should be careful about using the pass/fail option before choosing a major. A student may take up to one pass/fail and two satisfactory/unsatisfactory courses in the same semester.

### Rationale:

The College of Education (COE) will be going through CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) Accreditation in Fall of 2019. One of the five standards that the COE must meet to be accredited addresses teacher candidate selectivity. Specifically, it states that the Educator Preparation Program “ensures that the average grade point average of its accepted cohort of candidates meets or exceeds the CAEP minimum of 3.0...”. Therefore, the COE must ensure that students are taking courses that receive grades to carefully track the GPAs of all of its students.