Ohio State University Policy: Extended opportunity to take courses Pass/No Pass (PA/NP)

For more information, visit: https://oaa.osu.edu/grading-policy-changes-spring-2020

Frequently Asked Questions for Data Analytics Majors and Pre-Majors

Q. How many of my classes can I switch to PA/NP?

A. As many as you want. This is an option you can elect to use for any of your GE courses, major courses, major prerequisite courses, or electives that are graded A-E. You can also use PA/NP for minor courses, but if your minor is offered by a college other than ASC, you should double-check with your minor advisor to make sure you can use PA/NP for your minor coursework.

Q. If I switch the grading scale of one of my classes to PA/NP, will it still fulfill the prerequisite for classes that come after it in a sequence?

A. Yes, as long as you receive a PA grade.

Q. How long do I have to make a decision on whether to change the grading scale of my course(s)?

A. The deadline to switch the grading scale to PA/NP (or drop a course from your spring schedule with a “W”) is April 17th.

Q. What grade is considered passing for PA/NP courses?

A. A letter grade of D or better is considered passing and will earn you a grade of PA. Consult your course syllabi so you know for sure what percentage is considered a D letter grade for each of your classes (they could be different)!

Q. I’m still unsure whether I want to use the PA/NP option, drop my course and receive a “W”, or take an Incomplete. Who should I talk to about my options?

A. You should talk with your instructor first. It will be important to know your grade, the number of assignments remaining, and how those assignments will be met so that you can make informed choices about the relative merits of withdrawing versus choosing to take the course PA/NP versus requesting an Incomplete. After you’ve spoken with your instructor, you should consult with your academic advisor before making a final decision.

Q. I definitely want to switch one of my classes to PA/NP. How do I do that?

A. There will be a web form you submit to let us know which course(s) you would like to switch to PA/NP. This form is not available yet, but it will be available on or before April 3rd. You will be notified once the form is available.

Q. How will switching the grading scale of my class(es) affect my ability to apply to graduate school, or potentially transfer to another college, in the future?
A. It is impossible for me to know exactly how PA/NP grades will be interpreted by graduate schools, professional schools, or other colleges in the event that you transfer institutions. If you are concerned about how choosing the PA/NP option will impact your ability apply to graduate school, you may want to consider leaving the grading scale for all your courses as A-E.

Q. What about employers? How do they feel about PA/NP grades in major courses?

A. ASC Career Success has been asking employers how the PA/NP option may affect students who are seeking internships and/or full-time employment. Most employers have indicated that PA/NP grades on a student’s transcript will not negatively affect their opinions of students, as everyone understands that this is an unusual time.

Q. If I switch all my courses to PA/NP and so have no GPA for the term, can I keep my scholarship?

A. That depends on your scholarship provider. You will need to check with them. For OSU scholarships, you should email buckeyelink@osu.edu.

Q. Are there any disadvantages to switching the grading scale of my courses to PA/NP?

A. (1) If you are trying to raise your GPA, and you are doing well (A or B) in your class so far, you should stay with the traditional A-E grading scale. Courses graded PA/NP have no effect on your GPA, so, it is impossible to raise your GPA if you change all your classes to PA/NP. (2) PA/NP excludes students from making the Dean's List unless you still have 12 letter-graded credit hours in addition to your PA/NP hours. (3) If you are a student athlete, please consult your SASSO counselor before you opt for PA/NP. It is possible PA/NP could help a student-athlete, but there are also situations in which it could be detrimental.

Q. What happens if I do not pass one of my courses that I switched to PA/NP?

A. You do not earn credit for the course, and you will need to repeat it in a future term. Your GPA will not be affected.

Q. What if I am repeating a course this semester for Grade Forgiveness? Can I use the PA/NP option for that course?

A. Yes, you can. If you pass the class, the grade from your first attempt will be removed from your GPA, and it will be replaced with nothing. It will be as if the course never existed in your GPA at all.

Q. If I am on academic probation and I switch all my courses to PA/NP (meaning I will not earn a GPA for the term), can I still be dismissed?

A. Only if you earn a grade of NP (Non-Pass). If all of your SP20 grades are PA, you will not be dismissed.

Q. If I choose PA/NP for a required course this term and earn a NP grade, I will need to retake the course again. If I fail the course the second time, can I use Grade Forgiveness when I retake it for the third time?

A. No. Grade Forgiveness continues to be available only with the second attempt at the course.
Data Analytics PRE-MAJOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Q. I am a DA pre-major, and I am currently taking CSE 2221 and/or Math 1152 so I can apply to the DA major in August. If I decide to change CSE 2221 or Math 1152 to PA/NP, will this affect my chances of getting accepted into the DA major?

A. The Data Analytics Major application will still require a letter grade of A-E in at least one CSE course at the 2221 level or higher and at least one Math/Stats course at the Math 1152 level or higher. If you change the grading scale of CSE 2221 or Math 1152 to PA/NP, you will need to continue on in these sequence(s) and take CSE 2231/2321/STAT 3201 before you are eligible to apply to the DA major in February 2021. The grade(s) you receive in CSE 2231/2321/STAT 3201 will be considered during the application review in lieu of CSE 2221/Math 1152.

Q. I am a DA pre-major, and I am currently taking CSE 1223. I plan to take CSE 2221 during the summer so I can apply to the DA major in August. If I decide to change CSE 1223 to PA/NP, will this affect my chances of getting accepted into the DA major?

A. Assuming summer classes continue to be offered, you will still be able to take CSE 2221 during the summer and apply to the DA major in August (assuming you also have a letter grade of A-E in Math 1152 or higher). Your grade in CSE 2221 will just be more important because it will be the only CSE grade the admissions committee has to consider when evaluating your application.

Q. I am a DA pre-major, and I am currently taking a CSE course higher than 2221 (CSE 2231, 2321, etc) or a Math course higher than Math 1152 (Math 2153, 2568, or STAT 3201). If I decide to change my CSE or Math/Stat course to PA/NP, will this affect my chances of getting accepted into the DA major?

A. If you choose PA/NP for any of your current CSE or Math/Stat courses, your grades in these courses can no longer factor into the admission decision, so your admission to the DA major will be based on your performance in the other CSE and Math courses in which you did earn a letter grade of A-E.

Q. So what should I do?

A. Wait as long as possible before you make a decision about switching one of your Math, CSE, or Statistics courses to PA/NP. If, on April 17th, you are earning a solid B or better in your courses, do not switch them to PA/NP. If, on April 17th, you think there is a good chance you will end up with B- or worse in one of your Math, CSE, or Statistics courses, go ahead and switch it to PA/NP. This could potentially delay when you are eligible to submit an application to the DA major, but it will give you the best possible chance of being accepted into the major when you do apply.