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.

George

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

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.

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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  

**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](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](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/](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](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](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](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/bsm/admissions/application-process/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/bsm/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](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](https://medicine.umich.edu/medschool/education/md-program/md-admissions/requirements)

April 14, 2020
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

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/