

Dear CaSB Students,

I hope this message finds you all in good health.

I am writing to inform you that the grading basis policies enacted since Spring 2020 for CaSB major, pre-major, and minor courses have been extended for Spring and Summer 2021. Please see the updated policies below.

**For Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021 only:**

- CaSB will allow students to complete requirements for the CaSB major (lower- and upper-division) with a “Pass” grade in courses for which Letter Grading (C or better) would normally be required.
- CaSB will allow students to complete requirements (lower- and upper-division) for CaSB’s three minors (Mathematical Biology, Structural Biology, and Systems Biology) with a “Pass” grade in courses for which Letter Grading would normally be required.
- CaSB will allow students to take C&S BIO courses that normally are required to be taken for a Letter Grade (e.g., C&S BIO M150, M187) to be taken either for a Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass.

**Once again, these changes are only effective for courses taken during Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021.** Courses taken in previous or future terms will be subject to regular grading requirements unless otherwise notified.

CaSB has worked with the department on campus that manages the Degree Audit Report Systems (DAR) to have courses taken in these terms in which students earn a “Pass” grade automatically plug into the pre-major, major, or minor requirements of a student’s DAR. However, because no system is a perfect system, I highly recommend that you run your DAR as soon as grades have posted. Please allow up to two weeks for updates after the end of the term, and if you still do not see your grade of “Pass” for a pre-major, major, or minor requirement plugging in correctly, please contact me at [casb@lifesci.ucla.edu](mailto:casb@lifesci.ucla.edu) to request a manual update.

**Please consider the following points if you are considering changing the grading basis for courses that satisfy CaSB pre-major, major, or minor requirements from Letter Grade to Pass/No Pass. Please also review the [guidelines from College Academic Counseling regarding Pass/No Pass](#).**

- **Academic Standing:** Since Fall 2020, the Academic Senate has restored Pass/No Pass regulations which allow students in good academic standing to take 5 units Pass/No Pass during the quarter and up to 10 units if they have not taken a Pass/No Pass course in the previous term.
- **Pre-Reqs:** If taking a course Pass/No Pass that is a pre-requisite for a class offered by another department, please confirm with said department that a Pass grade in the pre-requisite course will satisfy the pre-requisite.
- **Overlapping requirements:** Please note that these changes are only in effect for CaSB major and minor requirements. If you are taking a class that fulfills a CaSB requirement and also satisfies a College/University requirement or a requirement towards another major or minor program, please confirm with the other department whether they will accept Pass grades to satisfy their requirements.
- **Financial Aid and Scholarships:** If all courses are taken Pass/No Pass, students will not have a GPA at the end of the quarter, which may affect Financial Aid or scholarships. Please check with [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) if you have any questions.

- **GPA:** A grade of “Pass” has no effect on the GPA. Pass/No Pass grades will not count towards Latin Honors. Please be mindful of GPA requirements for the pre-major, major, and minors when deciding whether or not to take pre-major courses Pass/No Pass.
  - Students must earn a C or better in all major courses and have a minimum 2.0 GPA in upper division major courses to graduate.
  - Official admission to the CaSB major, effective Fall 2020, is contingent on successful completion of all pre-major courses while meeting the following requirements:
    - a minimum 2.7 GPA in all Pre-Major courses
    - a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
    - a minimum grade of C or better in all Pre-Major courses.
  - Students in the Mathematical Biology, Structural Biology, or Systems Biology minors must earn a minimum 2.0 GPA in minor coursework to complete the minor.
- **C or Better to Earn “Pass” Grade:** A grade of C or better is required to earn a Pass; a C- or below will earn a No Pass grade. A grade of No Pass will not fulfill requirements or earn units whereas a C-/D+/D-/D- grade could have earned units. Students will not be able to petition for a No Pass grade to satisfy a major or minor requirement. A No Pass grade in a pre-major course will need to be repeated and will count towards one of the two pre-major repeats allowed to remain eligible for the major.
- **Repeats:** If you are repeating a course which you initially took for a letter grade and earned a C- or below, you **MUST** repeat that course on a letter grade basis. If the repeat is taken on a P/NP basis, you will not receive credit for the repeat course.
- **Professional and Graduate Schools:** Students who plan on applying to professional and graduate schools should consult those schools as to how P/NP grades will be considered.

**For Spring 2021, students have until Friday of Week 9 (May 28th) to decide on which grading basis they would like to take for each of their courses if the Student Option for grading is available.** Regular fees may apply.

**For Summer 2021, the deadline to change the grading basis will be Friday of the penultimate week of the session** (i.e., week 2 for 3 week courses, Week 5 for a 6 week course, etc.). Regular fees may apply.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [casb@lifesci.ucla.edu](mailto:casb@lifesci.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,  
Annelise

Annelise Werhel  
Academic Counselor

Computational and Systems Biology Undergraduate Office

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