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| Thoughts about \*your own experience\* (we love your activism but generalized statements about equity are not as helpful!) |
| "P/F only" should not be an option. This would deprive students the opportunity to improve their GPA. |
| A pass-fail will allow my education to continue to be funded by an outside source. |
| As a 1L student, there have been many points this semester that have felt to me as though I was pushed off the diving board despite not knowing how to swim. I cannot imagine many scenarios to make this first semester harder for a new student. Opt-in P/F would tell me that CUNY understands the difficulty I faced, and cares about me as a student. |
| As a 2L PT student, I can say with certainty, having completed 1L spring semester, 2 classes over the summer, and now 3 doctrinal courses this fall semester, that under the circumstances of COVID and being the computer all day, the quality of learning is degraded by learning online. There is a mental, psychic, and physical toll being on the computer all the time for every aspect of learning (in addition to working online all day). This is not to disparage the efforts of the professors to adapt to this environment as well, as I know they are doing their best. However, some hurdles just can't be overcome and online learning is not a replacement for in-person learning. Professors cannot gauge how students are doing via online learning as they would if they were in the classroom with students. As students we are all putting our best efforts forward, but, because we cannot study with one in person, in groups, in a quiet space that is dedicated to our legal academic pursuits, we cannot study as we once did; group study over Zoom is not an adequate replacement. As long as we cannot learn and study at the same level that we did when we had access to campus and in-person instructors, we should not be graded in the same way that we were when we had those things. As a side note, I wish that the school showed more humility in the fact that the quality of education is degraded, we cannot learn or study as we once did, and that we just cannot get as much out of our studies as we used to, instead of pretending that nothing has changed that and that the school is able to deliver exactly what it could when we were learning in person on campus. |
| As a first generation college graduate and low-income student, law school during normal times would be an extremely difficult ordeal. However, during pandemic times it is virtually impossible. I have given it my all, but working and doing law school from the kitchen table would never yield grades that are reflective of my abilities as a student, or my potential as a lawyer. During this semester, many of us have suffered job losses, illness, and deaths of loved ones. For those of us starting our law school career, the difficulties are even more pronounced. Technology malfunctions, distractions at home from pets and family, power outages; these are all abnormal issues we encountered. We are learning a new language as law students and a new way of life as humans during a pandemic. Regardless of the outcome, I know for a fact that the grades obtained during this semester are not an accurate reflection of anyone's potential. |
| As a part time student, It has been much more difficult to fully focus on school and give it the attention that it deserves because of all of the competing demands. I have also found long night classes on Zoom to be challenging. I am finding myself absorbing much less information than if it were in person. Finally, the school being inaccessible on the weekend has been the biggest blow as that was the only place that I was able to study without interruptions, especially now that we are being asked to stay at home all the time. |
| As a part time student, navigating both working remotely as well as remote school has been especially challenging. While I am fine with whatever is decided, it would be beneficial to have the option to do P/F after seeing the grades |
| As an out-of-state student attempting to gain employment in the field of commercial business law, letter grades are imperative. Most firms and companies in my state rely on grades to determine eligibility of job applicants. ALL law schools in my state have afforded their students at least the option of earning letter grades for all semesters, even throughout the pandemic. It’s impossible to be taken seriously as an applicant who has P/Fs on their transcript while competing against law graduates from other schools who have real letter grades. The goals of equity and fairness that CUNY Law is trying achieve by forcing P/F on students is, in fact, achieving the exact opposite— P/F grading (may) only benefit those looking to work in non-profit sectors within the state of New York. Had I, as well as many other students, known we would be subject to this constant battle for the basic right to earn real grades in law school, we would’ve chosen other law school options. I personally hope CUNY Law does not again mistake equal burden as equal benefit, and instead allows students to CHOOSE what grades they want— P/F or traditional letter grades. The Opt-in grading system is by default the most equitable option and is therefore the best grading system for CUNY to implement. |
| As someone in clinic this semester, I am really hoping to get my GPA up with that 12-credit grade! |
| As Someone who got COVID and my family as well I have seen first hand how school becomes the least of your concern . This will ultimately hurt my grades in the end. I wish I did not have to be concerned about this. Still hoping my grandmother will be okay over any other final. |
| As someone who got COVID-19 over the summer and has had long term symptoms, this semester has been even harder than I anticipated. Dealing with ongoing physical symptoms, brain fog, and debilitating fatigue has made classes very challenging (on top of everything else). The structure of the semester thus far, including grading, has been as strict as past semesters, despite the pandemic. Like many others in a variety of situations -- and I know many students are in situations much more difficult than mine -- my grades will not be a reflection of my diligence and commitment. |
| Asynchronous teaching greatly varias on professor inclination and ability to adapt to this new system. Also, asynchronous learning is generally more difficult for most students than traditional pedagogical methods. P/F is the only equitable system. |
| At the minimum it should be opt-in pass/fail given the work individuals put to get grades that they deserved. I fear a full pass/fail may undermine graduating student's achievements in clinical work which could be a selling point to interested employers.   Ultimately, I stand with the student body in saying that equity and fairness should be at the center of the process. With that comes consideration of the varied positions we all find ourselves in. Opt-in pass/fail in my opinion creates the most balance in that most individuals were anticipating a grade at the end of the semester, and are entitled to see whether they met those expectations, if they are not satisfied then I feel they should be entitled to select pass/fail.  Going forward I feel there needs to be more cohesion and clarity. Last minute changes like this at a stressful time add to anxiety already percolating around, exams and the raging pandemic. |
| At this point, p/f would suck. I know I personally have severely compromised my mental health this semester performing at a higher level in anticipation of grades. To know that I sacrificed my health and well-being just to be told it didn’t matter because "we are going to go P/F like you asked the first time" would hurt a lot. I may be in the minority, and that would be understandable as well, because I was a strong proponent of P/F. Just wanted to throw that perspective into the mix. |
| Attending classes over Zoom has been extremely difficult. I dont have a large support system and have been working twice as hard to teach myself without support from faculty and peers. While faculty members are available and we had skills, spending extra time on zoom was not a productive way for me to learn. |
| Because we had no choice about grades this year - I’ve worked extra hard for grades to bump my GPA. Living through that stress this semester really affected my well being. Now that CUNY wants to change the guidelines I find it it unfair to the efforts or the students, but also of the professors who have been grading our work. We should have grades with the option of P/F. |
| being a law student in an online environment is incredibly difficult and it was difficult to implement strategies that worked for me at the beginning of the semester as i had no way of knowing how this environment would change my study habits and productivity. it was only once we hit the more stressful portions of the semester (i.e. midterms, deadlines, finals, etc.) that I truly got a sense of how poorly my previous study strategies from doing school in person transferred over to this virtual environment. |
| Burn the bras, fight the system, and other clichés |
| can you just tell them that this is an absolute joke |
| Caught covid and in quarantine now, really sucks to worry about grades and monitor temperature all at once. Mines a pretty mild case but it’s not easy can’t imagine how it is for others |
| Considering everyone's different circumstances, at this extremely late stage, I'm sure most if not all have put way too much effort, sweat and sleepless nights earning their "letter grade" instead of a pass/fail. I think a pass/fail option ONLY is inappropriate that will put us at even further disadvantage with higher rated law schools when competing for a tough job market exacerbated by a world-wide pandemic. |
| Currently ill during finals week |
| Difficult semester, first time taking classes & exams online—definitely affected my exam taking (and I’m sure others), so at least would want to have the option of p/f |
| Difficult, just very difficult because there is no bifurcation between work and school anymore, it’s continued to be mentally and emotionally draining. Also, there doesn’t feel like a real reading period. Plus some professors are assuming that WFH for a lot of us means sitting on the couch so we have “more” time and that simply isn’t the case for many pt students. Those of us with jobs are still very much working- not sitting on our butts. Teachers have also taken a lot more time to get back to us via email - it’s just really draining. |
| During my 1L and 2L years, I was tenacious in my preparation for classes, assignments, and examinations. I stayed at school until late into the evening so that I wouldn't have the distractions of home life, and I used the time to read study supplements and make flash cards in addition to briefing the cases assigned for each class. I share that history in the hopes of establishing that I have a history of showing a strong work ethic, and that I take my education seriously. I also share that history so that you can understand how things have changed. I still wake up early nearly every day with my sights set on being the hard-working person I know I am deep down. But the day itself has changed. I feel like a caged animal whose muscles and spirits have atrophied. Fear and hopelessness pool beneath my skin, and a thick malaise clouds my mind. I have made it to every class this semester, and when called on by my professor I have located the answer in my notes and replied with it, but I could not tell you from memory what was discussed that day or even what I had said. My body is there, but my heart and mind are still hiding in bed beneath the covers. I will take my final exam when it comes, but all I'm looking at is the finish line. I am not at risk of failing any class because of this, rather I'm sharing these painful details so you can understand what my grades will be laced with if you choose to issue them. Lest you be tempted by a spirit of benevolent paternalism, know that my belief I would be graded throughout the semester did not help me get out of bed and it did not raise my energy or efforts. It was my respect for my professors that opened my reading assignments and pulled me into class each day -- I couldn't bear the idea of letting them down, though I admit I still did not show up as the student I used to be. I'm too depressed to care about my grades and have little to gain or lose from this decision you make, as my existing GPA is strong and I will, God willing, have a job offer by the end of December. I just wanted to share with you what these grades will reflect. |
| During the pandemic having a stable place to work and attend class has been a struggle. Living with first responders who have exposed to the virus has been extremely stressful and having to quarantine and get tested multiple times has been difficult. Circumstances revolving studying and working conditions have not changed since last semester where we were given pass/ fail options. |
| Employer requires a letter grade for modest tuition reimbursement - would not be possible with pass/fail only |
| First semester online was tough, and would definitely like some leniency grades wise. Now that I've got a semester under my belt, I feel like I'm better equipped to plan for spring semester, so I'm more open to no P/Fs, but would still like them as a standby option. |
| Folks can’t expect students to perform optimally during a pandemic especially for folks who are working from home and having to take care of family. Hence, my position that we should have the opt-in pass/fail policy provided that we are able to see our grades before making that decision. P/f only freezes folks gpa, which might be detrimental to students who are trying to pull their gpa up. I know we are big on equity but equity here isn’t about treating everyone the same— that’s equality. Equity lies in given us the option to choose between grades or p/f. Anything other than that is paternalistic! |
| For the law school to fully change its mind at this point, at the last minute, as we are starting finals, after so many of us have made drastic changes to our homes and our lives because we were under the impression for MONTHS that we were being graded, would be deeply unfair. I (and I'm sure so many others) have spent so much money and time changing my home environment so that I would be able to work from home without distraction, and purchasing the technology necessary to do so. I took out student loans I wouldn't have had to otherwise. I understand a need for opt-in P/F and am in full support of that, but it would be a blow to my mental health if, after being led to believe I would be graded this semester for the last four months, everything I put into this semester was invalidated. |
| For this semester, I've put so much work into classes with the assumption there would be letter grades. at this point I really just want the letter grade. Better if there is an opt in option though. Next semester I don't feel as strongly about. |
| For those of us in the part time program, that may not get the chance to do a internship, I need my grade for clinic! I’ve worked very hard this semester and want that to show |
| Get rid of the cunt restart policy based on low gpa |
| Getting graded during a pandemic where some of us (especially indigenous and black people) are losing loved ones while also dealing with the regular stresses of life is too much. P/f seems like the minimum the school can do |
| Getting graded may prove beneficial towards getting scholarships, and I am interested in applying to as many scholarships as possible, so grades would be helpful to me personally. |
| Given the current circumstances, the option to have pass/fail courses only will be most beneficial in ensuring that everyone can continue with their classes |
| Going great! |
| Grades |
| Grades are best. P/F is terrible on transcripts. Employers will look at P/F with suspicion. |
| Grades are great, but in a year where everyone struggled to survive let alone learn, pass fail should be the only option |
| Grades are not always a bad thing and this semester was supposed to be one that would help my GPA. My GPA is fine but the last two semesters (Spring 20/Fall 20) were electives/courses that would help my GPA after two years doctrinal requirements so it would be disappointing to have to take a mandatory P/F again. That would mean not being able to increase my GPA by .25 points. Of course, GPA is in no way indicative of one's ability but we are applying for jobs in a terrible job market and any way that I can improve my standing with employers is helpful. |
| Grades with P/F opt-in (assuming you get to see your grades first)! seems the most fair we are in pandemic and are under going a lot of personal stress/work stress as part-time students. Having the possibility of deciding if to P/F should be opt in or not and being able to see our grades first is just something that would much appreciated and much needed during theses hard times. We want to do well but don't know with online classes and our current state of minds how well we did having an option would create less of a worry. |
| Great motivating from professors this semester |
| Had tech issues that were grossly exacerbated by the fact that everything was online. I have 2 computers now so next semester should not have that problem. |
| Having the virtual classes demands extra attention to configure the right learning ambient when other family members are living too! There is always an inconvenient noise, an interrupting person either in your apartment, your neighbor playing extra noisy music or lifting weights. This has been, by far the most challenging semester in all my academia. |
| honestly i am totally pro-P/F given the disparate resources to do well this semester. that said, i have personally done well this semester and would like to have access to my grades if i need them later. but overall if its between p/f or not i vote p/f because theres so much other shit going on affecting peoples ability to do their best this semester. |
| How does this impact the 1Ls if our first semester is already P/F, but we still get a GPA. I don’t think the policy should be changed for the 1Ls because some scholarships require a minimum GPA. I am depending on a certain GPA to qualify for these external scholarships. Some students like myself did not get much aid from CUNY, and we are relying on external factors. This decision should have been considered at the beginning of the semester when students were considering other schools, and negotiating scholarships. Furthermore, the 1Ls don’t have an established GPA like the 2/3Ls. How is this going to impact our class moving forward? |
| I always sorta end up employed or where I need to be at the moment so personally I feel ok about employment options even if my grades aren’t all A’s etc. Because of that I don’t mind having either grades or P/F. However I also like having the option for P/F for when it’s needed, perhaps especially if we could choose specific classes. I’m not sure how helpful that is but that’s my very personalized take. |
| I am not sure how only having P/F helps us when we are not a T14 school! I know it extends a lot of flexibility given pandemic conditions, but I think it might hurt 1Ls in the long run who have no other way to demonstrate their record. |
| I am personally dealing with covid in my home and it’s repercussions and still would prefer to have my own grades. As a 3L I am applying to jobs and will have no justification for an employer asking why half my transcript is all P’s. |
| I am really concerned about the effect of a transcript that is half p/f. Aside from my worries about a p/f transcript with potential employers, mandatory p/f also deprives me of the ability to work and RAISE my grades. My GPA is effectively frozen with a P/F grading system (as I understand it). I need my GPA to be higher and have been working to achieve that goal. |
| I believe that grades are the only fair solution. We came to school knowing that we would be graded so everyone understood that grades were going to be assigned. I don't think that it is fair to say that forcing p/f on all students will help students affected by covid 19, because not all students affected by covid19 want p/f. Many of us have had issues that effected us personally as much as or similar to covid we have had to bear through it and did not ask for everyone to sacrifice their grades to put is back in a better place. I suffered homelessness twice during 1L and had to sleep at the school on several nights on the floor of my law sem class and did not ask or expect others to forego their grades to put me back on equal footing. Even this semester I began the semester with a case of menengitis that had me in the hospital for a week, and was the worse thing I've ever experienced but again I'm not asking people to forego their grades. I probably won't do as well as I wanted this semester r but again I am not asking or wanting students to sacrifice their grades. I think when you benefit for a policy but oppose it because you believe it is unfair that is the time to speak out. And that's what I'm doing. |
| I believe that we should have grades or opt in because this is what was agreed upon before starting the semester. It was something everyone knew about and worked hard to get the best grades they could. I think that if the school wanted to alleviate students stress they should have done this early on and not during finals time. Students in other law schools are receiving grades or opting in and in order to be competitive I think we need to also have grades. |
| I did fairly well GPA-wise last fall, but covid and distance learning have been brutal on my mental health and ability to focus on schoolwork. My grades slipped this semester, and I'm frustrated because I feel like I would be doing much better if we were in person and if I wasn't so afraid every time I left my apartment. I'm finding it hard to focus on zoom classes, and to get my work done in general. Had I known this much of my law school career would be spent online, I probably would not have applied when I did. |
| I did not do well my first semester (Fall 2019) and so far, I do not have any grades that will survive even a remotely competitive internship. Spring 2020 was a surprise semester with Covid and I was disappointed to have to go P/F but I understood that it was a pandemic and it was better for everyone to do away with grades. That said, I definitely did not focus as much and I do think my learning was compromised in that respect. This semester was voted on to be a graded semester and I think it would be best if we stayed on course with the initial decision as it was decided on after much deliberation. I don't think CUNY Central should have allowed this decision to happen during finals week, it is very distracting and disappointing. That said, we should respect the initial decision that SG and faculty spent their time on. Otherwise, it creates a scenario that any decision can be willy-nilly overturned. I do not want to speak on behalf of my fellow 2Ls but I personally need these grades. I think the best compromise would be to allow anyone who needs P/F to be able to opt in, I do not think people who worked hard to get their grades should have them erased with a "Pass." It would have been a different situation had this decision happened at the beginning of the semester. Also, I do not think it is fair on the faculty to offer "Grades with P/F opt in (assuming you get to see your grades first)" -- this would require a heavy lift from faculty who would have to carefully grade all papers only to have some students choose "P/F" which would require a different grading threshold. Students who opt in for "P/F" should have their papers submitted for "P/F" grading only so professors can approach the grading appropriately. I am very against mandatory P/F, this would be harmful to my future and I would be interested in knowing what other law schools are doing since we are already not as competitive, this would further disadvantage our scholarship and job prospects. |
| I did not have my own room to study in prior to the Fall semester due to economic hardship, and had to get my own room in order to be able to complete classwork and get sleep in a tranquil environment. |
| I didn't choose an option for Spring 2021 because I am graduating this Fall.  I really appreciated pass/fail Spring 2019 while we all adjusted to school during a pandemic, however, I voted the way I did because this is my last opportunity to make my academic record strong. I'm applying for jobs now and the job market is terrible, and because of that, it's extremely competitive. As I continue to apply for jobs, a higher GPA will make me a more competitive candidate. Moreover, as a PT student, I don't have many opportunities to make myself stand out as a potential hire -- I can rarely take classes in my desired areas of practice, participate in clubs and extra curriculars, or take internships. I work FT and my strengths are in my academic record, I would really like that reflected on my transcript and finish out my last semester strong.   A grade option would take into consideration the varying needs of the entire student body. I also think it's worth putting pressure on the faculty that they must take into account the struggles that students are facing during the pandemic, be understanding and accommodating, and that this be reflected in their grading. |
| I didn't practice writing an essay. That's on me. That said, it was a big leap from no essay to an epic essay. Maybe they can do more to build that skill. Have a small IRAC essay in the midterm perhaps, do a small IRAC essay in November in class or in Skills. Give us a small step up. |
| I don't feel especially strongly about my choices, but I thought it worth submitting because more data tends to be helpful in these situations. I am relatively lucky in that I am older and have a decent space to do work, and I have a supportive partner, and so am less encumbered than some other students. Also, many of my professors have been pretty accommodating, and I think are cognizant that they taught their courses (and will shortly be grading final exams) under pretty unique circumstances where people are coming from a lot of different places and yet still living under a grade-focused policy. My professors also gave us a lot of what seemed like fairly condensed information, and at least tried to hammer home exactly what we needed to know so we could all do well. Which is all to say that my choices reflect my circumstances, in that I felt I had the tools I needed to do as well as I would have had the courses been in person, but I also recognize that that does not necessarily mean they're a good basis for the best or most equitable policy. |
| I don't know how much "equity" it is. The question you are actually asking is: should you take away grades from those that worked incredibly hard for them under these circumstances to support students who either struggled due to COVID-19 (understandable) or were mostly fine but chose not to work as hard and in the process harm students who need grades for employment. It's an impossible question but one that really should have been dealt with at the start of the semester, not at the end. |
| I don't know why it would be pass fail, or how that is rationally related to anything good for students. Pass fail only harms us more in the future, with employment, internships, scholarships, fellowships, and if anyone wants to transfer to a different school. Other schools, employment, scholarships, internships, all see pass fail and apply "C's" The only person pass/fail would be good for is the school administration to show "good grades" for grants and for recognition. it would never be good for students unless they want it. |
| I don’t really know the implications of grades vs. pass fail. Would appreciate some explanation before voting/deciding. Took my best guesses tho! :) |
| I dont know what happened. hopefully can attribute poor performance to the pandemic |
| I feel disadvantaged in the job market (and it is already an experience for me with the internship search) without any possibility to show my grades. It is close to impossible to assess how well I am doing and how well I am learning if the final grade is not a grade and does not provide clear evaluation of how I am doing. To have confidence that I am moving in the right direction, I need either evaluation from the professors (more than "nice job") or grades (accompanied by the feedback as well). For my job search, I need grades or assistance from CUNY in how to convince employers that the Ps are still valuable and speak to my academic achievements, that P's are not "everyone passes for just being here," because this is not what they employers are looking for |
| I feel like I am doing well in school right now so I want a grade to reflect that to show employers. If my academics start to suffer because of economic challenges or health changes for me ir my immediate family, I would like the option to still look good to employers. I don’t what is better a C or D on my transcript or a P |
| I feel like I’ve worked very hard this semester and a simple pass/fail wouldn’t reflect that effort under these challenging circumstances. |
| I feel robbed every time my grades are stripped away. I work really hard for those grades. |
| I feel that in light of the pandemic all of my professors have been super accommodating this semester while still maintaining standards. This is greatly appreciated, because it has dialed down the stress during some pretty stressful times, but has also provided a lot of motivation to get through it all. That said, it hasn't been a walk in the park by any means, and I would be devastated if all of my sweat, blood, and tears from this semester were no longer reflected in my grades. I'm not even assuming I will have the grades I am hoping for (given that finals have literally just started), but even so, I know I will have earned them, and I need that sort of a feedback loop. I would not begrudge anyone who wants to opt for pass fail to be allowed to, but requiring everyone to be pass fail this late in the semester, after we've all put in so much work and relied on the prospect of having grades, would not be right. |
| I feel that the school’s response to this semester has vocally been of understanding but not necessarily in practice. Zoom law school is very challenging and that challenge is exacerbated by teachers who haven’t been properly taught how to use the format or classes that don’t lend themselves well to the format. |
| I feel that there should not be a rigid option. I really don't care about seeing my grades before or not, I would really prefer the opt-in, so everyone could make their own decision. At this point, mandatory p/f or grades only is overly burdensome. Opt ins split the difference. |
| I felt that this semester was unusually challenging, and I don't know if that was because the asynchronous and remote classes were particularly difficult for me (they were), or if I just chose a particularly challenging courseload. Being able to safely study in the library on the weekends (naturally impossible this semester) and ask professors question easily after a lecture is a huge benefit for my studying that I did not realize until I didn't have that option anymore! |
| I found out that I am pregnant about three weeks into the semester. I thought I was prepared to tackle this semester and be able to pull good grades, but this "surprise" has totally changed that. Student Affairs has been very supportive, but without that support, I'm not sure I'd even be able to pass, let alone get good grades. |
| I had a better leaning experience when the semester was pass/fail versus when the semester was for grades. It was less stressful and because it was less stressful I actually learned the material. |
| I had a confusing time this semester. In some ways I thought I was having an easier time than I would have had if I attended class in person but at the end I realized that there was something I couldn't identify that made the process of performing graded work extremely difficult. That being said, I am proud of the work that I've done and I would like that to be reflected in my grades. I want a grade no matter what it is. |
| I had covid over the summer, so my experience will be different than someone who battled the virus during an academic term. I think having grades helps me boost my gpa which can help with my course load - like not having to take bar electives. |
| I hate this idea- I feel it makes the GPA ranking completely unfair and it makes me worry what internship opportunities, law review, etc I am making myself less competitive for by having no grades. |
| I have a preexisting condition and spent the midterms period in the emergency room and in doctor’s offices. Then just before finals, I was exposed to corona and am still recovering. I have had to prioritize my physical health and then had to deal with the stress of not knowing how I was going to even pass my classes. All I have been trying to do this semester is keep my head above water and at the very least just pass. I feel like I have had to divulge so much to faculty what is happening in my personal life out of the fear that I’ll be failed out of my classes. I feel like there should have been more assurance that my best will be good enough given the pandemic. I have been trying to hold onto my physical and mental health but the entire semester, I have been overwhelmed by the possibility that my self-preservation came at the cost of failing classes. |
| I have already done the very difficult mental work of putting everything to the side to get good grades this year, even my mental health. That will be reflected in my grades. Making that P/F decision this late in the game advantages me in no way now that I've already done the mental work and feels like a slap in the face. |
| I have been sharing a small, 1br apartment with another person working from home during the pandemic, where it is very hard to get privacy and quiet while studying and participating in class. Without an isolated workspace I have struggled to maintain focus. I live with an immunocompromised person, and thus have not been able to go travel outside of my apartment or meet my peers as others have been able to. I also have been dealing with heightened mental health distress from being isolated. |
| I have been struggling with depression and anxiety to an extent never before due to the pandemic. School has become extremely difficult in many ways--including paying attention, staying motivated, dealing with the stress in isolation, learning the material through zoom, and not feeling connected to professors and students. I have tried hard all semester, but know that I have not produced my best work. I would definitely advocate for p/f because it would help settle some anxiety of mine. |
| I have been working hard and am on track to do well so, yeah, I guess I’d prefer grades at this point. |
| I have been working really hard to earn the grades this semester. I don't agree with changing way we will get graded (or not) at this point in the semester. |
| I have done so much work this semester with the mindset that we would have grades. My 1L Fall semester grades were terrible and I have learned so much since then and have been able to improve on those grades. My preference is for students to opt in to P/F if they want it but I need the grades because I am not hire-able with my grades right now. It would be a disservice to those students who have worked hard this semester and need the grades to boost their GPAs. On the other hand, those students who need P/F should have it available to them as an option. |
| I have felt behind and overwhelmed all semester. I have been struggling to catch up while dealing with so many unexpected struggles this semester and I was barely keeping afloat before I contracted COVID 2 weeks ago, now I feel like I'm drowning in the work I have to make up along with studying for finals. I've been terrified I am going to fail all my finals ever since and I am really struggling. The optional pass-fail for electives is not enough, because those classes have offered so much more deference and accommodations than my required courses. I am sure I will have to repeat my required courses if pass/fail is not re-implemented for this semester. |
| I have found most (but not all) professors to be incredibly accommodating. I have not been facing any serious issues due to COVID (beyond just figuring out how to concentrate at home), so given the flexibility of my professors I will likely end up with better grades this semester than I've had before. But I also understand that this is not the case for everyone. Although I would benefit from grades, I would much rather format our grading system to benefit those who have been hardest by COVID. So my first choice is P/F only (for all of the reasons that were outlined by students last semester re: equity). If we do end up with some version of P/F, I would ask that there still be graded feedback within classes. I struggled last semester to understand how I was handling the material without grades - so even if my transcript ends up saying P/F, I'd appreciate more robust feedback. |
| I have had multiple family members have covid exposure and infection over the semester at different points in the semester. I also had a professor contract covid. In both cases this distracted from my studies and prevented my typical level of focus. On a more personal note I have struggled with covid mental health this semester more than typical academic semester at any point as a person with depression covid has been very difficult for me in terms of having my therapeutic practices and support network. The isolation in addition to the surrounding death and fear has made this semester very trying mentally. I hate that I have to acknowledge this but my grades are looking to be very high probably multiple As, however I strongly favor having pass fail. For me this would but allow a little space to prepare for next semester under conditions I didn't expect to become so toxic for my mental health. |
| I have had to make a lot of changes to my home & life in order to make school work for me because I believed if I did not, my grades would suffer. I had to purchase a new computer (months after I lost my job b/c of Covid), I had to spend months away from apartment in order to concentrate, I went on anti-depressants, I bought whiteboards & noise cancelling headphones etc. etc. etc. Administration has asked us to be flexible, and we all have been, but what we need now, more than ever is one, single constant. I've worked hard this semester and showed up to every class despite my own personal issues. I've remained flexible, made sacrifices and done the work, all I ask is that the law school honor the agreement we all made a the beginning of the semester––do not change your minds this late in the game. We deserve consistency, please don't take that from us in the middle of finals. |
| I have lost family this year. it's damn near impossible to focus when greiving. we are not given a puase button in life so we make do but it's a crime for a cuny law program that touts itself as a beacon of justice to have no human empathy for their students. it is shameful and will lead many of us to not recommend this program to others. lip service is not equivalent to actually standing true to the values that are espoused by this instution. |
| I have never been more stressed out in my entire life. I feel like i’m going to lose my job every day which is a stress on top of the fact that i have to feed myself, do laundry, upkeep the house, and then GO TO LAW SCHOOL. Listen, I’m just trying to be a lawyer... I didn’t create this pandemic and yet I feel like us students are being penalized for it??? You all have DONE NOTHING to make this semester easier on us. |
| I have slow WiFi, it’s hard to take notes by hand due to physical issue, & I have 1 screen I’m on my laptop which slows down a lot when running zoom and even just a simple notes application.   This has been tough mentally as well due to isolation for covid precautions as an immunocompromised individual.   It’s really messed up to have to pay full tuition for online classes. |
| I have to move back to California because of COVID and to be with my family and the state is going into lockdown so my travel plans have been pushed up as a result. I am also trying to finish my clinic assignments and study for finals all while packing up and keeping everyone involved healthy and safe. |
| I have worked really hard to earn grades this semester since they only grades I have are from Fall of first year and I have worked to move my GPA up but have been stopped by P/F. I would be really disappointed if we went to PF after being told we would be able to earn grades. |
| I just don’t want the stress of seeing the grade and feeling terrible if i didn’t get the score I wanted. |
| I just find it weird they are changing it now, and it’s an uncomfortable thing to have to vote on . I am doing my best this semester, and would have really benefitted from P/F since the beginning but bc of all the sacrifices i’ve had to make (had to stop working, didn’t go stay with family who needed me so i could focus on school etc) i’m doing okay. I think i have a chance at getting good grades this semester and bring up my gpa which is not great because it only shows my first semester grades.... but I also understand that there other students who need P/F because of everything going on. |
| I know for sure I’d like to see my grades. |
| I likely have undiagnosed learning disabilities. No one would know that looking at my GPA through three semesters. One major way I previously overcame these obstacles is never doing work from home, which is not an option nowadays. My academic performance during Covid is not reflective of my abilities. CUNY should set up a grading system that reflects my situation. |
| I managed to complete almost every reading for each class plus the assignments this semester and review powerpoints and additional resources, and still it was a sub-par learning experience--not at the fault of the professors or students. Zoom school just does not work well, at least particularly for myself. While professors are trying to balance being accommodating to students while also upholding expectations of law students, I find that a blanket grading policy would make it less unequal and individualized given what each prof chooses to do. While I know that grades might boost my GPA, I'd rather sacrifice that for some piece of mind--not having to worry about the effect of a B v. an A while struggling with personal stuff at home. |
| I personally have been working hard this semester for my grades, for the sole purpose of improving my GPA even though GPA doesn't matter these days. I would like my transcript to reflect something of my grades considering I'm only a 2L and have had none so far. I also would like to say that classes are hard because it's hard to retain information but the tests are more manageable because they're open book. In that sense grades only over p/f only is where I'm leaning because the work is hard but much more manageable. |
| I personally need the fall 2020 semester to lift my GPA, but recognize that other students may need the P/F option because of their own personal circumstances. |
| I prefer p/f. It's the most equitable choice. HOWEVER, I have been stuck at a sub 3.3 gpa for a semester now and may be stuck for another semester if we go p/f this semester. There needs to be some type of relief for students in my situation who have to argue against p/f because we need to bump our gpa to avoid taking required courses. This issue predominantly affects first gen lower class students who haven't received an equal education as some of their peers. |
| I prefer to receive grades. I have had the opportunity to work from home and dedicate a lot of extra time to studying. I really need to increase my GPA. |
| I really don't have the capacity to do a third of what I need to do. It feels like there workload is higher than normal because of all the administrative and emotional burdens of remote learning. I am so tired. I have no attention span and have a lot of cognitive difficulties that make so much of my work impossible. Absolutely drowning and not sure how I haven't completely collapsed/had a stroke/heart attack etc |
| I really think traditional grading is harmful to so many students and create a lack of self-worth if a student does not do "well" grade wise. I think that pass/fail is an adequate accommodation during this time of mass death and tragedy, a looming eviction crisis, food insecurity, and massive unemployment. People have a lot on their plates right now, and making grades one less thing to worry about would be beneficial to student's overall mental well-being. |
| I simply am not able to put in the same amount of work into school during the pandemic. That does not mean that I am not learning the material, as I engage in class and connect to the material in other ways. I shouldn’t have to worry about failing law school while I am in a pandemic worrying about my health, my family members and having trouble with technology. |
| I solely rely on P/F to stay in the program due to GPA cut off. It would be much wiser to lower the GPA cut off much lower than 2.5 than going for grade or P/F. I have prepared so much for fall semester expecting a grade boost. Had fall semester being P/F in advance, I would select different courses to better serve the need of public interest lawyering. I blame the 2.5 cut off GPA that significantly limited opportunities for my skills trained for public interest works. |
| I started this semester thinking I would get grades and have a chance at a gpa booster and would like to finish it out that way. |
| I studied very hard this semester to get As. I find this survey a bit grating considering all the work I have put into the semester. However, I don't trust some of the professors to grade the semester fairly, nor do I trust that my classmates are not working in teams on these finals. This seems to be an untenable situation and I don't know what the right answer is. Sorry. |
| I take my graded midterms/finals locked in my room, loud neighbors, package deliveries, unreliable internet, child doing online home school. These are not legit testing conditions for timed graded doctrinal exams. |
| I think I did well this semester, even with the obstacles that came along with the pandemic and online learning. I feel comfortable with grades with a P/F opt in |
| I think I’m doing okay and may even do well. But the circumstances of this year are so beyond the pale of a typical experience that I don’t know what a good grade really tells me. I would rather have p/f until the pandemic is over. |
| I think switching to a grades only model has caused the professors to reduce the curriculum load and cut material which is negatively impacted the academic experience. The pandemic poses challenges especially as we work remote so these measures are justified and warranted. At the same time I wonder if we would be better off on the pass fail model without having curriculum cut and the material condensed. Preferably, I would like to see my grades and then choose a pass fail option if necessary. The need for a GPA is high considering how competitive the job market is and the nature of this field. I know we need to keep that in mind which is why switching to a pass fail model only is not ideal. |
| I think that because we thought grades would be a factor, and we are competing for internships with other people who have grades, I worry that pass/fail will harm my chances. I also of course understand how hard of a time this is and I struggled as well but school is school and I went into this semester expecting to be graded |
| I think the damage is done - changing to universal P/F is not going to remedy that. I wanted P/F over the summer, so I could do school on my own terms. But since that wasn’t an option, I slogged through this awful semester operating under grading standards. I’m half way through finals now. It’s frustrating to learn that I didn’t have to forgo opportunities that would have improved my mental, physical, and financial well-being during this enormously stressful time. However, at the end of the day, I don’t feel that the school owes me a reward for my efforts if it comes at the expense of my classmates - if enough of my peers indicate that P/F will make their lives easier, then I support them. |
| I think we should continue with grades. Why switch now? It doesn’t make any sense. |
| I thought that pass/fail was the default for first semester 1L? |
| I thought the online semester was very conducive especially for taking final exams. I think grades will be a fair reflection of student work. |
| I want grades and think we can’t keep on with p/f forever but I know some people are having a hard time. |
| I want letter grades. Period. |
| I was a strong proponent of P/F only in the beginning of the semester because I was worried what effect having to work from home would have on my ability to perform academically. Now that this semester has passed and I have worked under the assumptions that we will have grades, I can confirm that several factors have made being a successful student more challenging. For example, no matter where I go in my apartment there are distractions - this is particularly challenging during test taking periods because I am not able to focus fully. Zoom school has strained my eyes and lead to pretty consistent headaches that prevent me from focusing as I would in class. I was able to push through it this semester but I am not sure if I have the stamina to keep it up next semester. I know this survey is mostly regarding the Fall but I would love if CUNY was able to better help us with this in the Spring when the effects of COVID will inevitably be worse than they were this semester. Thanks. |
| I work hard this semester and I want to get a grade as this was the expectation from the beginning. It is not fair that the outcome would be different at this point of the semester (less than 11 days from the end of it) |
| I work in healthcare in a hospital - and yes, had myself COVID tested due to recent work-related exposure. I haven't been COVID positive, but Work has been hectic. Also, taking a final exam at midnight (because that's when everyone is quiet at home) is not the best measure of my perfomance. My focus is to prepare for and pass the NY bar exam on the first time. My focus is not grades at an institution without class rank. Grades are not necessary and this pandemic is rough. |
| I worked extremely hard and sacrificed to get good grades this semester and I would like that reflected in my GPA. Seems a bit late to change it to P/F now after going through this entire semester on the premise that my GPA would be impacted. |
| I worked hard this semester with the understanding that the semester will be graded rather than P/F. Although I worked hard to achieve the best grades I could being remote, I am still worried about the outcome of my scores because I'm not sure if I am retaining the material properly through this new style of learning. I tried my hardest but am concerned that it just may not be enough to achieve the grades I want in the end because remote/distance learning has not been optimal for me. Family getting sick, family passing away, picking up a part-time job and isolation have been major road blocks for me this semester. This is why I would prefer the option to choose P/F in the instance that my hard work and efforts do not reflect what my professors have asked of me during this semester being remote. I also would like an opportunity to raise my GPA as I am a 2L that is looking to gain employment and internships but with the hardships that came with learning remotely this semester, I would like an opportunity to opt-into P/F. |
| I worked really hard on my 12 credit clinic and am expecting a good grade and this would really help my GPA/job prospects if that gets counted on my cumulative GPA |
| I worked really hard throughout law school and overcame many obstacles this year to be able to get good grades this last semester of law school. I have my clinic which is 10 credits and has a HUGE impact on my GPA, and I would not want to be robbed of my effort. It was announced that we would have grades the beginning of this semester, and I made A LOT of sacrifices to succeed in getting As this semester - it is not right that at the end after all I had to give up to do that - that I should not get credit for my effort. |
| I worked too hard in my clinic to NOW be told I’m getting a p/f. Not a fan of this at all at this point. |
| I would like p/f this semester. It’s been difficult being a mother and having to go remote for the semester. It’s hard to keep up with classes when you have a baby and/or young children that need your attention 24/7. I’m not confident that my grades will be up to par with prior in person semesters. |
| I would like the option of P/F after seeing my grades. There were a lot of unknowns and unpredictable situations that I encountered during the pandemic that impacted my performance this semester. There is a lot of uncertainty in how grading is being done in each courser as well being that I am a 1L. Having this option would give me better insight into how grading is done at CUNY, how accurate my assumptions/habits/practices were for law school, and extend grace for these unprecedented times. |
| I would prefer we do whatever the majority of law schools end up doing. My biggest concern is how internships or jobs might be effected by pass/fail. |
| I would ultimately prefer PF OPT IN AFTER seeing grades. We have all worked to the best of our abilities this semester, and we should get to decide what grades we keep, and which grades we do as PF.  I personally found that online learning was harder than anticipated. I took 16 credit hours thinking things would be easier as open book, and also factoring in more free time thanks to no commuting.   However, I did not realize how hard and taxing it is to be on zoom all day. It's very hard to learn, stay focus, find motivation. My grades may or may not slip this semester, just depends. I would like to be able to see how well I learned this semester, which will also inform how I may perform next semester online.   I think the best option is to have opt in pass fail after seeing how I performed. |
| I would work just as hard if it is graded or just pass/fail, but pass/fail removes a lot of anxiety about failing out of school for not being in good standing while navigating this situation from home on zoom. |
| I'd like to do what's best for the group. If my classmates are advocating for P/F I'm right there with them. To me, what's most important is the learning not the grade. |
| i'm a contact tracer for my state and i am stresssssed. also have a 12 year old brother, an aging mama, a sister, and an unemployed dad. and a girlfriend. and friends. it's difficult juggling everything at home. and i'm always deciding if i should tune in to the covid work webinar or the class zoom (and have 2 laptops for this). even though my coworker always tells me school first, i feel guilty not focusing on the pandemic because people are literally dying/struggling.. law school is my last priority, while i think my average in every class is above 80... i still feel for folks who have rough homes to not be able to go through this semester because i know the pandemic is affecting everyone one way or another |
| i'm a single mom. its incredibly difficult to access childcare during the pandemic. i have family nearby but they are generally older or have small children of their own so i don't feel comfortable asking them for help. i had to pay a sizable percentage of my income so my son could be in a learning pod during the day so he could get help with his schooling and i could go to class and do my readings uninterrupted. i am fortunate that was available and i could afford to do it. however, i had little to no time for outlining, study groups, or studying. but i did alright considering and feel like i've been lucky. i am more concerned about other students who lost loved ones, were sick, had housing, food, health and tech issues. |
| I'm a student coping with mental illness and, due to what's financially practical for me, sometimes deal with an unhealthy living situation. This semester, between the isolation of quarsntine and the living situation has been near impossible. P/F would accommodate me in that I know nothing I've done this semester shows how committed I am to my studies or how much I have to offer to the CUNY community. It'd cause a lot of emotional distress if the marks I anticipate based are apart of my student records. I'm also recovering from an experience with sexual trauma that's happened over these last fee months, but I do not feel comfortable seeking accommodations through CUNY. P/F would be very important for me based on these experiences. |
| I'm confused why this is being discussed all of a sudden now, at the end of the semester, during finals. Will my employment possibilities be hurt if I don't have 1L grades and merely have a pass fail on my transcript? Extremely confused and very angry at this uncertainty, during a time that is already unbelievably stressful. |
| I'm just in awe that the fuckin clowns at CUNY central waited til finals week to put this on the table. So happy I'm a 3L with no finals right now. |
| I've had a lot of trouble concentrating at home as there are a lot of distractions, and I've also had recurring internet issues and issues with zoom that have been frustrating. Teachers are still all over the place with grading requirements but many have made it extremely difficult to keep up. |
| I've received summer employment for next summer and my employer is expecting to see my grades from this semester. Under no circumstances would it be reasonable for the school to force everyone to be pass/fail when we've organized our entire lives around the expectation that we would be having grades this semester. If some people want to opt-out of grades, that should be okay, but no forcing people out. |
| I've worked really hard this semester and worked a course load that assumed we'd be graded; all that work to raise my GPA would go unnoticed, and I'd have to rely on my first semester grades when applying to jobs. |
| I've worked too hard this semester to not see the results of that work with good grades! |
| I’m a student with a disability and online learning is way less accessible than in person. While I think I’m doing well, I think P/F option would help make up for some of the inaccessibility problems |
| I’m feeling confident that I will receive an A in my clinic, and I would love to get those 12 credits for the sake of my GPA. However, I’d also be thrilled to opt-in to p/f for my bar elective course. |
| I’m still working and studying full time to support my family. It’s been genuinely tough and extremely stressful trying to balance everything. Even the option of P/F even though a C- is failing is still stressful and not helpful whatsoever. |
| I’ve been stressed about grades all semester and now CUNY wants to change the rules 10 days before the semester ends! Come on! |
| I’ve worked my butt off all semester working a real job plus school to pay my bills, my parents bills and succeed in law school. I do not have a high gpa but have worked so hard this semester to obtain grades to bring it up. I don’t want to be labeled by my fall 2020 gpa alone. The last five applications I’ve submitted this month have asked for a copy of my transcripts and my GPA. I worry that having another semester of p/f will not only affect job prospects now but also in the future considering the rest of NYC law schools are receiving grades. I’m not one of those students who had been able to just adjust to being home and doing school with no issue. I have had real difficulties this semester and have made changes and sacrificed to get the grades I’ve earned. I don’t want that to go to waste. I don’t have the privilege of just moving home after law school if I can’t get a job in this already competitive market we live in. I have asked a few people who do hiring in their offices and All perspectives need to be considered b/c the reality is that grades do matter and it sucks so much that they do but not all fields or practices are as progressive to do without grades in the application process and that needs to be a consideration considering all CUNY law students are not after the same post-grad goals. I also feel that most professors this semester have been accommodating if you reach out, which I have had to do on many occasions and has aided tremendously in the success of this semester in consideration of the emotionally/physically tolling situation I’ve been placed in. |
| I’ve worked very hard this semester with the expectation that traditional grades we’re taking place and would like to see my hard work reflected in my gpa. |
| If I had known that the semester would end P/F, that would have taken a huge source of stress off my shoulder during the semester. With so much going on with family and beyond, the pressure of letter grades felt really unnecessary, difficult, and anxiety-producing. P/F would be a huge relief. |
| If our first semester grades do not show up on our transcripts regardless, then all 1Ls should be okay with Pass/Fail especially if it means prioritizing those most impacted by the difficulty of law school during a pandemic and stressful election. This does not even feel like law school, professors are clearly still adjusting to teaching on zoom. We are paying full tuition for less resources. The last thing we need is to be graded on the support we have (or lack thereof) rather than just focusing on gaining the skills necessary to become an advocate. Grades are not that, especially not for CUNY law students. |
| In my experience I feel that my academic performance is not the same online than in person, when I can consult other students or faculty on questions more readily than waiting on various zoom calls. This being said, the pressure of being graded fully and might having to explain a bad grade to a potential employer has only added more pressure. I think it would be worth discussing any system where if a student wants to prove they did well in a class that there is a channel to apply for say a short LoR or something of that sort. |
| In my experience, grades help me gauge my understanding and learning. Exams are an extremely imperfect system but they are still a useful tool. As someone who often did the bare minimum in many classes in grade school and undergrad, I am for one of the first times in my life, excited about learning and trying my hardest, and feeling that getting the most out of what CUNY is offering will impact my lawyering skills. If I put 100% effort in, and still get a C, that does not stress me out. And at least I know it is an area of law I need to work on. If I put 100% effort in and get a P, I won't know which classes I am struggling to understand. And if I have nothing to assess my work and effort, I will be less driven to put forth 100%. |
| In the last week I’ve had several people close to me be diagnosed with covid including my sibling. I’ve had people who I am close to be isolated and contract covid while incarcerated. I have spent entire weekends discussing covid protocols within my household and my pod - making very real decisions about our risks and the gravity of the current time. All of this has impacted my studies. I am exhausted. The work this semester has felt unmanageable and unsustainable for me but I have completed assignments all to the best of my ability. As I approach finals, a P/F system would truly be a game changer for me. |
| It has been such a struggle to really be able to focus and buckle down to learn everything i need to learn. Not only because we are adapting to online learning, but also because our professors are adapting to a whole new way of educating. Additionally it’s not only online learning but the general anxiety and hardships of dealing with COVID and the fallout of the pandemic. Anxiety and depression has been in every corner for me making my already difficult task of focusing and properly learning material even more difficult. There have been days when simply getting out of bed has been a hugely difficult task and honestly, when I did, I considered it a win for the day. I know law school is not supposed to be easy, it is stressful and demanding on a regular day but now we also deal with the frustrations of everything COVID brings around, loss of family, wages, friends, colleagues, increasingly demanding tasks at work because everyone is trying so hard to get back to “normal”. To say this year has been stressful is a huge understatement. I am appreciative of what I do have, but I also need to express that the negative has significantly taken a toll on me this year. I can’t even imagine how it has affected my classmates who are dealing with so much more. |
| It has been very difficult to be at home and start law school. I am Hispanic and live in a household with multiple people. I’m not sure I could have done the best I can, and would like a chance to see my grades |
| It is absolutely miserable to wake up, stare at a computer all day (and "class" is just staring at the computer but now you're being filmed). |
| It seems very late in the semester to be considering this change. At this point, people have worked extremely hard with the idea that we’re working for grades. I don’t Think pass fail will accurately reflect peoples work and accomplishments this semester. I recognize that not everyone is in the same position, which is why I chose the opt in option. But I think if opt in is not possible, it’s too late to about face. |
| It was a difficult semester given the lack of discipline I have at home. Many distractions and zoom fatigue. Having a option for P/F takes away some of the stress that comes with hindsight. |
| It was an extremely demanding semester - particularly remote - and felt that even in moments of extreme stress in my personal and family life, there was little to no space to breathe. Professor's should be a bit more lax and allow for students to take the occasional personal day/excused absence given the stressful environments we are all in. |
| It would be more beneficial to me to get grades rather than p/f. I worked as hard as I would have in a regular semester and would like to see the results on a grade. |
| It would prove detrimental to lose another semester of grades for those students who wish to raise their GPA before graduation. The students have worked very hard and deserve to be properly compensated for their time and effort. |
| It's been really difficult concentrating on doctrine and classes when I'm home surrounded by family, my mental health is taking a huge hit with being in a pandemic, on top of hearing left and right people I know are getting covid or they were exposed to covid making them vulnerable. In a situation where people are literally dying everyday and I'm at risk of dying everyday because I have family members who are essential workers and still going outside, being expected to give the same amount of effort and product into classes seems absurd. On top of that, administration expecting students to pay the full amount of tuition but don't provide more accommodations for students is also absurd. So to know that my work will be graded on a letter grade without accommodations and an option to opt in/out of them being shown on my transcript terrifies me because it's added mental and emotional stress on this already stressful and literally life-or-death situation of a pandemic based on work product that is not at its best because my situation doesn't allow me to give my best. |
| It’s been a huge challenge to study this semester. I am at home in a small apartment with another adult 24/7. We make it work, but my job is emotionally and mentally exhausting and only more so with the pandemic, and challenging to do from home. I’m fortunate to benefit from a lot of good things - truly, I am so grateful for how little this pandemic has personally impacted me - but it’s still so, so hard. For my mental health, my work/life balance, my friendships, my physical health (not getting enough exercise, not eating well, sleep is way off). Knowing just how incredibly fortunate I have been and STILL how hard it is... |
| it’s hard for me to perform at the same level that i would be if it was in person and not in the middle of a pandemic and economic crisis. |
| It’s tough doing school remote |
| ive had a very privileged and easy time this semester im sure compared to my classmates |
| Knowing that I am going to get actual grades this semester, while we continue to endure this pandemic, caused my anxiety to skyrocket. It has been so difficult to get through the course material; trying to learn through my 13 inch laptop all semester just does not work for my learning style. I am spending emotional bandwidth worrying about how I’m going to cope if my GPA significantly sinks. I would have such an easier time engaging with the material, and would really be looking forward to continuing my education, if my anxiety about the letter grades were off the table. |
| Law school during a pandemic, full-time work, family responsibility, internet issues had an impact on my performance. I want to do well and I am working hard to navigate law school remotely with other responsibilities. I don't think amount of workload and the testing compares to what we are experiencing. It seems like the testing and workload and timing of final exams ignores the remote environment and the issues that come with it. I knew the answers to my final but didn't get enough time to finish. A numerical grade will do a disservice. Especially in this circumstance. |
| Law school from home has been incredibly difficult, focusing on grades rather than the materials makes it more challenging to focus and engaged. |
| Law school is much tougher online. Grades with a P/F opt in where you see your grades first would allow all this effort to not go to waste but wouldn't punish us for the difficulties of pandemic learning. |
| Learning online has been difficult in many ways - less access to resources/knowledge of resources at the law school, especially as a 1L. Also the lack of emotional support (that could come from being in person/meeting with other students) due to being in isolation has affected my mental stability and efficiency to learn in law school. |
| Learning over zoom and not being able to use school resources has made classes extremely difficult. |
| Learning remotely has been incredibly difficult and I feel that I am having to teach myself everything despite the best efforts of conscientious and expert professors. The isolation of quarantine has contributed to insomnia and depressive episodes that make it difficult to retain new concepts. I know I am not the only person struggling to cope with daily life during covid and trying to adapt to learning in this remote pedagogy model. Universal mandatory pass fail is the right thing to do. |
| Life has been unpredictable and stressful and it’s made focusing on and being motivated for school look much different this semester. P/F takes some of that burden off of us. |
| Listen I got lucky, I live with my parents, they support me, feed me, pay for my internet, I have it very easy compared to others. Other people are way worse off than I am. But at the same time, the only grades I have to show off are my mediocre 1st-semester 1L grades. I feel I've grown a lot as a law student since then and I want a way to show it. But you guys reading this have a lot more information than me. If students are really hurting and have found this semester difficult, go with mandatory pass/fail, I'd rather the brilliant people I go to school with not suffer for this G-d awful pandmic. |
| Lol at this parenthetical. Thank you for all your work! |
| Many of my PT 3L classmates are interested in grades, we have worked very hard this semester. |
| more of a question: if it’s pass fail, the semesters would not be calculated into GPA? not really sure on how it works |
| My access to technology was challenging this semester and I experienced personal losses this semester which may have adversely impacted my focus on school. |
| My aunt died yesterday and grandmother, uncle, and grandfather are hospitalized. I need to be helping my family make arrangements and preparations, but instead am studying for and taking finals because these don't warrant accommodations, according to CUNY. |
| My capacity this semester was unexpectedly much more limited than I thought it would be. While remote, I have not been able to concentrate or perform at the levels I'm used to. With blurred lines between work, school and leisure, and all of it happening on different software that are engineered to grab/keep our attention, I've experienced my attention span negatively affected and severely shortened throughout the semester. P/F-only grading would be a relief for a semester during which I did what I could, but realistically could not do my best. I also wasn't prepared for the bleakness and emotional toll that this virtual semester took, which also inhibited optimal cognitive function. Point is, it was a hard semester. |
| My experience has been horrible for my mental and physical health. I work really hard, am a capable law school student, and I have never felt as overwhelmed and persistently unhappy about law school as I have this semester. I am very dissatisfied with unequal thoughtfulness about effective pedagogy for teaching remotely across my classes. At best, some professors seem to not be in touch with reality about what students' lives are really like. Not everyone is only responsible for themselves and get to live and work at home in a stable, uninterrupted bubble. Professors adding material to rush through and/or claiming that this is how they have always taught class and downplaying the difficulty of their exams ahead of time while actually raising the bar that students must perform to by making their exams focus on application without sufficient teaching of application--because of the pandemic induced remote learning conditions--were particularly irksome. At worst, some professors seemed to have an attitude that we must be kept busy with constant deadlines to learn because we cannot be trusted to be motivated to study otherwise. I don't like being a critical person so I am sorry to say that Evidence was the worst offender of such apparent gaslighting. I used to think I had law school and my mental health all figured out and usually felt much more confident and never unhappy like this. I might just be happy enough if I pass now. Physical symptoms of the toll of the semester manifested for me that were disruptive to my life. I heard that I was not the only one. Fortunately, I have been able to hold it together so far. This semester has made me think about my classmate, Danny Nguyen, who was highly anxious about how he was doing in law school before he died. What if a crushing doctrinal workload contributed to serious harm to someone else? We like to think we are resilient and strong, but I objectively think the doctrinal burden and poorly thought out course requirements could have been too much for someone else. Morale among the PT 2Ls was very low this semester. We shared feedback with our professors. Almost 2/3 of the cohort showed up to our meeting with the Academic Deans with very similar feedback focused on extreme burnout attributed to one class and figuratively screamed out for help. The Academic Deans promised follow up. We had reminded Dean Bilek at one of her townhalls that the Academic Deans said they would follow up. We are now partway through finals and got no follow up. It is unacceptable to not hear a peep from senior administrators at a public interest law school whose roles would seemingly include supporting students so they can succeed. I have pushed myself to the brink in the hopes of performing so that my grades accurately reflect my abilities. If I do much worse than I usually do in terms of grades this semester, that certainly will tank my GPA and not help my ultimate employment prospects. What was the point in CUNY adopting letter grades and a sink or swim mentality if that happens? |
| My experience so far has been challenging at times, but I believe I am finally beginning to get the hang of online learning. Although it is already finals week, I am now able to see what works for me and what does not, in terms of study habits, note taking, completing assignments/exams. Hopefully, by next semester I'll have implemented all the systems that I have sampled and chose to take with me.  Although I did not have a lot time for extracurriculars and student engagement because I was still navigating the realm of law school, I also plan to change by next semester. I know that there are dozens of tremendous student organizations to be involved in. All in all, my experience thus far as a 1L at CUNY Law has been filled with some highs and some lows, but the low points are what are most valuable because they are the learning experiences that will guide during these next 3 years.  I also sincerely thank the Student Government for the numerous opportunities given to us to express our views/concerns in order to make our law school experience one of the best ever. |
| My impression is that most public interest employers are not concerned w grades, and for internships etc I have yet to be asked for grades. It's hard to imagine that future employers will be examining the transcripts of those who were in school for most of a pandemic and discounting people who did several semesters of law school P/F. |
| my stress levels have been through the roof with the requirement of grades this semester. it’s been the worst semester of my life thus far, and i’ve considered dropping out multiple times because of grade concerns. i strongly encourage the administration adopt a p/f approach so as to alleviate future stress on students—in the spring semester as well as fall 2021. |
| My work ethic is different when it is p/f than when it is grades. I work much harder for a grade than I work for p/f. |
|  |
| Not having to worry about grades allowed me to prioritize substantive learning or getting my first job as a lawyer guilt-free in the instances where pursuing higher grades would have competed with those other goals. I also already have a high GPA so I don't need opportunities to raise it; in GPA terms, I have more to lose than gain with grades. |
| Online school during the pandemic is incredibly difficult. Aside from the regular stress of law school, my mental health has been debilitating and I have not been able to perform at the capacity that I usually do. This is on top of additional assignments that have not actually helped my understanding, and have only cause me additional stress. Not to mention have a midterms period in which not only was I required to study for my exams, but I also had readings that were due the same day as my exams. It completely finished off whatever energy I had left to dedicate to my studies and incapacitated me for half of the last half of the semester. Online school is difficult, again. I'm self-teaching, while reading and studying, which is the primary reason that online school is even more work than physical class. While I appreciate the messages to "make sure I'm doing my self-care", frankly, there is no time for me to do so with so many extra-assignments and self-teaching. This is in no way to blame faculty for this experience, we are all figuring out how to navigate these unprecedented times. I wanted to be frank about my experience. Not all of us have the privilege of being neurotypical or of solely focusing on school without worrying about finances, the health of family members and how the current state of the world impacts us and the people we love personally. |
| Operating with the understanding that there will be grades this semester, I have worked hard to create a study space in my home. I have been diligent in my studies and worked hard to do well in class. To have P/F at this junction would take away the efforts I have put. Thus far, all I have are my 1L fall grades and they are not good, so many outside scholarships and internship opportunities that are denied to me. I recognize this is not everyone's experience and think an opt-in option would be the best way to handle this situation. If we have a P/F for the spring, I am considering taking a leave of absence because it makes no sense to be in school. I also feel the school faculty and professors have been very accommodating and have worked hard to ensure we learned this semester, despite any hiccups, and this would also devalue their efforts. Please advocate for a grades for those who need it and have an opt-in option for students who prefer P/F. Thank you. |
| Opt in because some professors have not been understanding about the pandemic. Some professor have treated this as a regular semester. Such as, strict time limits for exams despite connectivity issues, refusing to record classes unless someone specifically asks for it. Which makes it too late if someone loses connection. Therefore, some of us are struggling in such classes. It’s not fair that a grade depends on who the professor is (in terms of being accommodating) rather than the work the student puts in during these difficult times. |
| Parent of two children who have been “homeschooling” this semester- I have already prioritized my own schoolwork over other responsibilities all semester in the anticipation of grades - it would be absurd and devastating to change the grading scheme now for Fall semester. I’ve worked for grades and need grades - that was the agreement. 2L FT have only 1st semester grades representing our GPA - we deserve to show our progress since then (a full year ago)! Thanks |
| Part Time Evening students are always pushed to the back burner. All of the academic sessions were geared towards full time students. Our skills professors can only do so much before they spread themselves so thin. Also maybe advocate for switching the library hours to weekends only if you can’t extend the weekdays to weekends for whatever budget issues they’ll claim. Given the fact that part time students have the most demanding lives and schedules (as part time is our only choice) our group’s concerns is under represented. I know SG is limited in what they can do but the fact that 1L PT evening as a choice was left out of this survey until the very last minute says enough. You all really need to consider advocating more for PT evening. We pay the same the same tuition rate, we shouldn’t have to demand consideration but here we are. |
| Pass fail gives us the opportunity to learn; we dont need to be competitive whenb resources are so scarce and the days are so unpredictable. P/F offers collegiality and an opportunity to be a part of a collective and not have to be more distant than we already are. Some schools like Vanderbilt, Harvard and Yale have already adopted this policy long before the pandemic; their graduates are doing fantastic. Lets grow together by learning right from wrong and not A from B. If we can focus on how to address the difference between the right and wrongs of learning, we can set the expectations high for a "pass" without avoiding the necessary parts of learning because we are competing for a grade. |
| Pass/fail is the norm at some law schools. With the difficulties of remote learning, juggling work and school p/f would not stand out as abnormal on our transcripts. Giving students the option to opt it will bring more attention to p/f students. |
| Pass/fail please |
| People have no idea what it's like with family, work (I work full-time), and then this not-so fabulous pandemic on top of being a part-time student. EXCESSIVE, excessive amounts of "busy work" from professors this semester. I don't have time to waste with silly assignments, although maybe they were trying to give easy points for the A? Honestly, I didn't have a third of a many assignments due as a 1L. I hate to admit, but familial interruptions do take place when you're home (hello? Family, anyone?) and then some technical difficulties with a professor did not want to make her class available online. Also, my laptop crashed right before Zoom class once. I lost all class notes, learned why people say, "back up your laptop," and all with this new format. As long as classes are online, I recommend P/F only. If grades are pushed for, then we should see our grades, to decide if we opt in. Keep in mind that, even if you "can't" see your grades beforehand, every student will contact their professor for a preview of their grade to decide if they are going to opt in. |
| Perhaps grades but with a lower standard for getting an A, B, etc |
| Personally this has been a struggle, I did not have the bandwidth to focus on classes - at most I was able to tune into class for roughly about 20 mins where after that my ability to focus was shot. I did not feel like professors took into consideration what we are all living through and there were no alternative approaches to exams/hw professors took. I have never struggled this hard in school before now, at this point my saving grace would be P/F. The next 2 weeks are already going to be quite dreadful for many of us (on top of the fact that this country is not providing any support to us to actually live through this). I feel like at any moment I can fall apart, knowing the grades I'm probably gonna get at the end of the semester will be the tipping point for me, for sure. |
| PLEASE consider that grades comprise one of the only ways CUNY students can meaningfully compete against students from higher ranked schools in obtaining internships and full-time employment. To take grades away last minute when I’ve relied on my GPA factoring in first semester grades strikes me as unfair. I am in the process of interviewing for research positions, and the people I’ve spoken with have really stressed the importance of grades. Not everyone at CUNY wants to work at non-profits that don’t care about grades. The law schools I know people at are still giving grades this semester. Give students the option to not have them factor in, but please please do not take away the ability of students to compete meaningfully for the opportunities they deserve. |
| Please do not force mandatory p/f after the semester has ended and finals have begun. A drastic change such as mandatory p/f would not be equitable and would be extremely discouraging after making it through the entire semester. |
| Please just follow what the majority of ABA accredited law schools are doing so that there is equality when we are interviewing with employers. |
| please think of those impacted by covid |
| PT 1L bro available |
| School is now structured directly against my learning disability. I have developed a formula (staring in 4th grade) on how to manage it. I no longer have the tools to complete the formula. Even with accommodations I have seen a direct and negative impact on my grades throughout the semester. I am very smart, but it would show up for me in this way. Please don’t place the burdens of COVID on my ability to perform as if there were no pandemic. Please don’t put the burdens of COVID on the students who will carry grade evaluations for forever. |
| Shaundi Best |
| STICK TO GRADES. WE NEED SOME COMPETITIVE DRIVE HERE. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!! I WANT A JOB |
| Stick with grades. We are in the midst of finals, why change now? I think we were all motivated this semester to do our best. |
| Super stressful semester and students and faculty overwhelmingly voted for p/f. Is CUNY central just trying to torture us by putting this forth in midst of finals!!! |
| Thank you to whomever set this up! Virtual learning is not optimal for accommodated students like myself, despite the ongoing efforts and support of the involved CUNY faculty. |
| The constant changing situation and lack of stability from the school makes grades a useless tool of comparison. It's ridiculous to think that these grades (gotten after this long at home) are in anyway comparable to the grades or education of previous classes. And employers are not fooled. |
| The damage that no p/f has would have had has already happened. Dumping this shit on us during finals is the most fucked thing they could’ve done. |
| The fall semester was tough not only because of the pandemic, the president election, rising cases, but on top of everything it was difficult because I had an extra thing to have anxiety over, which was being graded. Additionally staying focused while all of the chaos is going on is difficult as well |
| The jobs I’ve been applying to do require transcripts. It’s not fair that all they will see is a “P” when other students from other schools will have an actual grade on theirs. Having a P/F system will be especially disadvantageous for students of color, such as myself. Lastly, just pointing out that this matter has already been voted on and decided (kind of like the US election, though I hear people would like that matter to be reopened too like you are doing now). You had wanted a student vote and you got it: people wanted grades/opt-in to grades. Not P/F. We went into this semester with the expectation we would come out of it with a grade. We adjusted, and in my opinion, it has shown how resilient we all are. For all that to now be for nothing is quite a disappointment. I’m not sure who we are fighting for anymore. Do you think actual lawyers got to in any way lighten their workload or argue for things to be easier for them? I can tell you from experience no they did not. If we are going to be lawyers, we need to learn how to work through this just like the rest of the world. The fact that this issue has reopened is causing a lot of stress for students now. Just in time for finals too, so thanks for that. |
| The pandemic along with distance learning and personal issues have certainly impeded my ability to perform as well as I would like to. Having a more flexible grading system would be extremely helpful at this time and much appreciated. Some professors were excellent, some were not as accommodating but I appreciate the CUNY community in considering our feelings and requests. Thank you. |
| The semester online has been extremely challenging. The connection hurdles, distractions among many other things is difficult. |
| The stress level reduces with the option as this semester has been extremely stressful with covid+election+riots. |
| The workload was really challenging for me because I had unexpected disruptions in my life due to COVID-19, including having to leave my apartment because there was too little space for a lot of people to be working and studying from home, and recurring headaches possibly caused by a lot of unexpected noise at the apartment I moved into. |
| The year has been hell for my family & me. This would be a very helpful solace. |
| There is a pandemic, hard to study focus on zoom and get the material. |
| There is no way we should be failing people during a pandemic that's numbers are rising every day. Universal Pass would have been the right call. That said, a lot of people have put in a ton of work this semester under the impression there are going to be grades so i think something with an option is the fairest result for the Fall and for the Spring. |
| This answer was based off of my personal experience. I hope that we take a holistic view to this. I support whichever decision you all make |
| This experience has made my mental health worse and it difficult to focus and get work completed. I have made it through two years of law school and by far this has been the hardest and worst semester I have experienced. I am fearful how my grades this semester will impact me moving forward despite having been a good student the two prior years. |
| This is still a tough time. People hustled to get their grades up because we went in with that mindset. However, I am cognizant of how hard it might have been for people despite the warning, so therefore I will go with P/F if the majority of people would benefit from that. We are in unprecedented times. |
| This is the single toughest year in my 39 years of life. I lost my job in May and subsequently lost my room as I could not pay. I've been couch surfing ever since, doing odd jobs. It goes without saying life has become very hard for most of us. This covid situation and the repercussions it had on my life have led to a lot of emotional difficulties as well. Among all of the problems, trying to find odd jobs, figuring out where I'll be crashing the following week, studying has been very very difficult. I did not perform anywhere near at my potential. I would request the given the international crisis going on be a bit more lenient on us by implementing a pass/fail grade. Thank you |
| This is too late in the game to be brought up. But if going p/f helps at least one person, then we should go p/f. Everyone learned and lived under different circumstances this year. May not have been possible for everyone to do as well as they could have because of circumstances. Grades opt in p/f - helps everyone who wants grades and helps those who want p/f |
| This pandemic and online has greatly impacted my ability to focus during zoom classes along with my ability to get work done - I would like the P/F opt in |
| This past year has been stressful as hell. P/F really helped put my mind at ease during Spring and Summer semesters, and going back to a letter grade system in the middle of a pandemic, with no real rationale provided to us, just makes it seem like the administration isn't looking out for us. And now an opportunity for us to revert \*back\* to P/F, right before finals? I know that this has apparently been foisted upon the school by CUNY Central, but still - it really shows that students are not the main focus here. |
| This potential change is occurring too late, on the eve of finals. The earlier shooting-down of P/F after a sustained advocacy campaign has already done harm. The pandemic has only gotten worse for many of us since CUNY Law leadership accepted the Chancellors decision. And we never heard a word from the admin after this truly devastating decision was sent out in a pithy email. We feel abandoned. Offering P/F now is only one step towards righting the wrongs connected to the prior decision. |
| This really sucks. It would have saved me like 6 panic attacks if I had known this ahead of time. I'm glad they are doing pass fail but it sucks.... |
| This semester as a starting 1L has been very difficult at home adjusting from years not in school to classes. P/F would serve me better than grades, but I know people feel differently. |
| This semester has been an exceptional disaster for me personally and is not typical of this students academic performance |
| This semester has been difficult, as a single parent evening student with a full-time job and a child mostly homeschooling (and struggling). But since we were told early on that pass/fail or opting into grades was not an option, I've worked hard this semester to maintain decent grades, sometimes at the expense of other obligations. So it's really not helpful to change course to P/F or opt into grades at this point. I am frustrated with the poor planning and last minute reassessment.   If the administration does take the route of opting in for grades, my preference would be to see grades before deciding. |
| This semester has been extremely tough but I’ve worked really hard to stay engaged. As a 3L I really feel like I need the opportunity to have grades this semester. I worked really hard in all my classes and this is my last opportunity to raise my GPA before graduation. That being said maybe the 1 and 2Ls dont need grades this semester so perhaps a split would be feasible. It’s really difficult to think that my GPA is based upon only 3 of my now 5 semesters and the fall of both 1L and 2L were really difficult and my grades weren’t as strong as a result. To be clear I want whatever is best for the collective but I am answering this strictly in response to the call of the question. |
| This semester has been incredibly taxing with the fears of getting sick as well as getting my loved ones sick. P/F is the ethical thing to do here |
| This semester has been really challenging and one of my biggest fears/concerns was failing as I truly had difficulty with online learning, understanding doctrine, and the overall experience of taking these classes online. I don't feel my work and learning reflects my abilities as in person I was understanding significantly more and felt more comfortable and receptive but this semester I did not feel any of that but rather struggled more than usual. I have studied, taken skills classes and even discussed with other classmates and I still feel very in the dark with a lot of the material and am extremely anxious about how my finals will affect my grades and GPA because of all of that. |
| This semester has been tough. However, I work my tail off despite the circumstances. I want to see the grade I earned. |
| This semester has been WAY harder than spring 2020 which was P/F. At least then we had some sort of intro to the classes and space to learn and create study groups physically in person. This semester we didn't have the opportunity at all. Professors were also more lenient and understanding last spring semester than they are now. At this point in the semester since it's over and we are at finals, instituting P/F isn't some sort of "incentive" for us to perform poorly. We have done every and anything we can up until this point, so P/F would just ensure that this effort won't be for naught if we couldn't do as well as we had hoped. The anxiety of school has almost completely consumed me, this is the miracle hope I've been holding out for. |
| This semester has been way more difficult than last spring semester! Zoom fatigue and keeping up with deadlines and schoolwork has never been more difficult. COVID anxiety also played a huge part this semester and there were days I wouldn’t even be able to get up from bed and do work. I think mentally I’m exhausted and as a 3L I’m willing to have p/f because I feel like my gpa will be even more hurt with grades. There are days I feel like I can’t even do any work or lift a pencil because it’s so difficult now. I really hope this semester is p/f and I’m sure people would only put grades because of the fear of job certainty but at this point I want to save my sanity and my mental health comes first before grades. Thank you |
| This semester has very challenging, personally, I've been with housing instability which has made it difficult to find a quiet place with a good internet connection to study and attend classes. Additionally, my family got sick with covid which once again has left me with unstable housing, while financially supporting my family while they recover from covid. Dealing with full-time classes with these added obstacles has made it difficult to be on top of my classes and I feel like it's unrealistic to expect students to live up to these grading standards as a worsening global pandemic continues. Additionally, I think an opt-in option doesn't give students much of a choice. |
| This semester is beyond strange. At times I don't even feel as If i'm a student. I congregate with people through my laptop and have little interactions with people. The staff of professors have been wonderful but no amount of effort can make this experience of going to law school through zoom as something that we can successfully learn from. To grade us during any semester where we attend from home is completely unfair. I hope the school makes the right decision |
| This semester was extremely difficult for me and I do not feel that I participated how I would have liked to. At the beginning of the semester, my son was assigned new therapists for his autism, speech, and occupational therapy. This was an adjustment period that took a lot of my focus. As a result my doctor increased my ADHD medication. On top of all of that happening my uncle passed away suddenly. My uncle was more a father than uncle as my siblings and I did not have our birth parents in our lives due to the crack epidemic of the 1980s. Typically I am a chatterbox in class, blurting out answers and facilitating discussions. This semester I was not as focussed as I would have liked, but I still managed to make it to class only missing the night my uncle passed and the day of his funeral/repass.  Using Zoom for class has also been an adjustment. I’m not used to having to type out responses in a chat, and the first few times I wanted to respond to questions/comments I became overwhelmed and did not type anything. By the end of the semester I was doing much better at being involved as I became more accustomed to the format of class. Last year I had to withdraw from school when my son was first diagnosed with autism and started doing therapy since it was a huge adjustment for the entire family. I came back this year thinking things would be smoother, but they weren’t. I push through anyway because that is what happens in real life. You are faced with obstacles and challenges you must confront to keep moving forward. |
| This semester was extremely hard to manage keeping up with coursework and "campus" life/student activities. I wish there were more emotional support resources, like additional counseling staff and career advisors to help. Also, there should have been more TAs for courses, especially core doctrine. It was a huge disservice to students that some did not have access to additional support. |
| This semester was incredibly challenging emotionally and academically being remote. However, I want to see my grades. |
| This semester was incredibly difficult bc of the nature of law school but also the pandemic/weight and stresses of the past few months. The fact that I knew things would be graded made me push myself even more and attempt to treat assignments/readings the way I would if life were "normal" now. This helped my grade but I don't know that it helped my mental health. Having to keep up with assignments attempting to use the same rigor I would use in a regular semester was emotionally and physically taxing. I am also torn because I think, as it was my first semester, I may have been tempted to be more lackadaisical on readings/assignments/exams knowing that there would be no grade. However, now understanding the effort required I don't think I would do that if there were to be a P/F option. Overall, I think the benefit of the P/F option is that instead of pretending that all is well because we can use zoom to communicate, it takes into account the trauma we have all experienced over the last few months. This is not to say that all of my professors weren't extremely understanding and compassionate but regardless the academic stress was there. |
| This semester was the most difficult academic experience I have ever endured. As a 1st generation college grad and low-income person who lives with others in a small space, I had to learn in conditions that were not conducive to learning, to say the least. For example, my main setup was on my kitchen table and that was the space I had to do work and class. Aside from all the distractions, we were learning a new language and could not have the same flexibility to ask questions and meet with professors in person to get a more individualized explanation. While everyone tried their best, I feel that the conditions were extremely difficult. Aside from the logistics, there was also a pandemic where I lost friends and family to the virus. Dealing with not being able to see family on top of grieving for the loss of loved ones, definitely hampered my focus. Whatever your decision, these grades would never be an accurate representation of our abilities or effort. For these reasons, I am a strong believer that the university should move to strictly pass/fail. |
| This semester, I have suffered from poor internet connection, job loss, generalized anxiety disorder, and a complete inability to focus due to the pandemic. This semester is not representative of my academic commitment and I do not believe that my grades in the required courses in taking (all 3 of them) will reflect my mastery of the material. I would really benefit from pass/fail. |
| This statement is focused on my own experience. What I like about grades is they keep me focused and trying as hard I can. When grades are removed and I'm given a pass/fail option, I somewhat relax, knowing I can earn a passing grade with minimal effort. I know there are arguments against grades and I can agree some students are disadvantaged by them. I don't think removing grades for 3 semesters does the rest of us a great service in learning material needed for the practice of law and passing the Bar. Nor does it help professors evaluate which students aren't making progress in the course. Since everyone is in a different situation, the choices of pass/fail or grades should be up to each student. I don't want my education to be hampered so people can make a statement about education in America. |
| This survey was conducted in the beginning of the semester and the student body voted for grades. We all worked hard this semester with that understanding. Being a part time student, the clinic is so important; as I probably will not get to do an internship. This 10 credit class was difficult and I’ve worked extremely hard for what I know will be a good grade, which I earned and need for my GPA. |
| This was a hard semester for me because I had to move apartments due to COVID-19 and this was disruptive. I felt destabilized, isolated and anxious a lot of the time. |
| This was a horrible semester for all of us and the grading for every class has been inconsistent and we’re all struggling (including professors) and grAdes seem so absurd. |
| This was a really stressful semester. I found it extremely difficult to maintain engagement to a high standard and found myself experiencing an inordinate amount of fatigue and stress. I also was dealing with COVID prior to finals, my partner/roommate still has COVID and I had symptoms of it for two weeks. This completely derailed my ability to study for finals as much as I would like and now I am concerned about the possibility of doing poorly. |
| This was a very difficult semester outside of the classroom. It was difficult to remain focused while there were protests occurring, an election, family members sick, people you know losing their jobs. Also being able to balance doing school at home with other family members depending on you. |
| This was even harder than the spring and summer. People are burnt out and knowing that we have to be graded for this survival mode performance, it’s just not fair. |
| This was the most challenging semester of my life. If pass/fail is not permitted in unprecedented times such as these, if not now, then when? |
| This would be a saving grace for me. This isn't specific to covid per se so I understand if you don't include it but I had two emergency eye surgeries that made me miss 5 weeks of class during October-November. On top of that living with my mom who was going through cancer radiation. I'm still going to doctor appointments all the time and in addition needed/need to get extra covid testing for pre-operation testing. I still can't look at screens for a very long time and with everything online/zoom it is very difficult for me. I am desperately trying to make up everything just to get by at this point. |
| Thought I could handle it and wanted grades at first, but the mental strain has been \*a lot\* to deal with and there should be some flexibility here. |
| To have our (3L’s specifically) grades for the remainder of law school be based a majority from our third semester of law school is unfair. Especially when a majority of us are in clinic and doing well and expect to receive good grades after trying so hard all semester. Pass fail simply isn’t fair there has to be some in between - perhaps a lower grading standard |
| Very difficult as 1L to worry about GPA requirement and all |
| We are in the midst of a pandemic. The anxiety of getting sick coupled with law school is enough stress. |
| We were told before the semester that grading would by traditional grades only. I adjusted according and worked very hard and have achieved good grades. I don’t want to lose them now to a “P” grade. This would be unfair to those who took the online classes seriously and would hurt my “raising” my GPA. Don’t change in mid-semester. Announce a policy then stick to it. I relied on the announced policy. |
| we worked our butts off this semester because you told us we would be graded normally. I don't think it's fair to change that decision days before the semester ends. There are consequences to not having grades as far as employment. To be honest, there are much realer consequences for people in the world living through a pandemic right now. That should have been considered before telling us and the faculty that it would be a normal grading schedule. It's too late to change that now |
| While I understand P/F was necessary last semester, I need grades this semester to be competitive for employment purposes. Not having grades this past semester hurt my chances of qualifying for scholarships that require a certain GPA. Although that is out of anyone's control, and as I said, it was necessary to go P/F then, the situation is different now. We have been operating under the premise that we would receive grades all semester and it would be frustrating for that to be changed now that classes are over and we are in finals. Remote learning has been a terrible experience for me, and I much prefer learning in person. With that said, this entire semester we were told we would receive grades and I want to receive my grades that reflect the effort I put in. Further, I am applying for jobs, and not having had the opportunity to raise my GPA with last semester's grades, has hurt my chances of being competitive. Therefore, bottom line, I need this semester's grades. |
| While I understand that P/F only options are necessary for many students especially due to Covid-19, many of our peers in other law schools will have a traditional grading system. I am concerned that if we have mandatory P/F system, we will be at a disadvantage in terms of employment in the future. |
| While it is great that we can still weigh in on the grading,this survey didn't come at the best time as we were about to write our exam which was a bit unsettling. Secondly, I sincerely hope that the opt in option is seriously considered as it will allow those student who want letter grades to get that and not have it be an either or situation because there are pros and cons to both the pass/fail and the grades only systems, but giving the students to decide individually if they want a grade seems fair. |
| While the pandemic has absolutely affected everyone individually, I particularly feel that my learning abilities have felt an extreme negative impact: I have not performed nearly as well as usual. Pass/Fail grades would recognize the immense difficulty of this quarter and actualize the unprecedented experience of taking 1L first semester classes during a pandemic. |
| Worries about the pandemic itself in addition to the resulting isolation and online learning have taken a toll on my mental health which has made it hard to focus both in class and while trying to work outside of class. I don’t believe the letter grades I would likely receive this full would be a true reflection of my abilities. |
| Worst semester |
| Would be really disappointed if P/F was mandatory. I think an opt-in option would be best. Personally, mandatory P/F would not motivate me and I would not learn as much. Grades (or, at least, the option to select P/F) motivates me to study and learn. Mandatory P/F would make me feel like I'm not really accomplishing anything. |
| Would be tough to go to P/F at the end of an entire semester. Would make me feel like all the work I did to get a certain grade was not really necessary. Next semester I would be more open to it. |
| Zoom fatigue is very difficult and it took me twice as long to finish assignments and readings as it did prior to quarantine. However, I worked very hard because I knew we were being graded this semester. Additionally, everything in life takes twice as long such as getting food so that should be taken into account. |
| Zoom has just been so difficult to navigate and focus on. It’s honestly not my entire fault, just mentally how I act really can misguide my mindset. I have a lot of insecurity having my camera on too because I feel everyone is staring at me even when its a class of 100 people. I just keep a very clouded mind and it makes me want to just relax throughout so many classes and not pay attention. |