



Faculty of Science

Office of the Dean
St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3X7
Tel: 709 864 8154 Fax: 709 864 3316
deansci@mun.ca www.mun.ca/science

TO: Course instructors in the Faculty of Science

FROM: Dean of Science office

SUBJECT: PAS/FAL and numerical grades

Dear instructors,

One of the academic remedies proposed by the university following the disruption of instructional activities this semester due to labour action referred to the method of evaluation (Numeric or PAS/FAL). An instructor, following discussion with a student or students, may change the method of evaluation to PAS (pass) - indicates performance meets expectations / FAL (fail) - indicates failing performance. This change in evaluation can be made on a per student basis and does not need to be applied to the entire class/section. Any instructor wishing to switch course grading for all students within their course/section from numeric to PAS/FAL should discuss this with their Department Head.

This memo provides further information on the impacts that such decisions can have for students. **Please ensure that any students receiving a PAS/FAL instead of a numeric grade are aware of these potential impacts.** While instructors, after consulting with a student or students, are responsible for deciding whether numeric or PAS/FAL grade will be submitted, in some cases, Department heads or their delegates may strongly recommend that instructors not provide PAS/FAL grades to students, particularly for certain courses for which grades are considered for admission purposes.

The decision to take a PAS/FAL grade should normally be made by the last day of classes.

1. Impacts on program admission

Students should be aware that numerical grades may be required for admission into programs, and that taking a PAS/FAL could disqualify them for admission (e.g. where a minimum numerical grade is required for admission). For programs with competitive admission, there may be a minimum number of courses with numerical grades completed. Students should reach out to departmental academic advisors for more information.

2. Impacts on the Faculty of Science Dean's List eligibility

The Faculty of Science Dean's List eligibility criteria remain unchanged. These criteria include this requirement:

- *completed at least 9 courses (27 credit hours) over two of the previous three semesters, received a numeric grade in each of these courses except where no option for a numeric grade was available, and attained an average grade of at least 80% and a GPA of 3.50 in these courses.*

Therefore, students receiving a PAS in a course that has an option for a numeric grade will not be eligible for the Dean's List.

3. Impacts on Faculty of Science Scholarships and Bursaries

Scholarships and bursaries that are offered to students based on recommendations from the Dean of Science are awarded to students who meet the minimum conditions of scholarship standing as determined by the university. Students who receive a FAL grade are not eligible for scholarships and bursaries.

Scholarships are based on academic performance and are awarded to the student with the highest average over the previous three semesters who meets the conditions of the award (for the 2023/2024 academic year, Spring 2022, Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters will be considered). For Scholarships, students will normally not be eligible if they receive a PAS in a course that has an option for a numeric grade; however, students may provide, on the application form, information on special circumstances that the Dean of Science may take into consideration.

Bursaries are based on financial need as well as other specified terms of reference. A maximum of 2 PAS grades may normally be received to be considered eligible for a bursary; however, students may provide, on the application form, information on special circumstances that the Dean of Science may take into consideration.

4. Impacts on graduate or professional school admissions

Taking a PAS instead of a numerical grade could impact admission to graduate or professional school, as PAS grades may not be recognized.