What will the grading policy be for Academic Year 2020-2021?
Students will have a pass/fail grading option for all MSPH courses during the fall and spring semester - up to 9 credits of coursework. Please note that this maximum applies to a student's full academic career at MSPH. For all courses that MSPH students cross-register into, the grading policies of the home school are in effect.

Students can speak with their advisors to understand more about pass/fail grading and its implications for their future academic and professional goals.

How is this different from the existing MSPH grading policy?
The grading policy for Academic Year 2020-2021 allows students to take both required and elective/selective courses pass/fail. (Under existing policy, students could not request a pass/fail grade for required courses.) The maximum number of credits that can be graded pass/fail over a student's academic career remains 9 credit hours total.

How many credits can I take pass/fail this semester?
Students may elect to receive a pass/fail grade for coursework totaling up to 9 credits this semester. (This option would leave zero credits remaining to be taken P/F across the remainder of one's degree program.)

How do I request to take a course pass/fail for the Fall 2020 semester?
Students requesting pass/fail may complete the Pass/Fail Grading Option Survey. Requests must be submitted by November 23.

How will I add spring 2021 courses pass/fail?
As it pertains to the expanded pass/fail policy and Spring 2021 courses, students will be able to elect the P/F option within SSOL at the point of registration. (Please keep in mind the 9-credit, cumulative limit.) Should a student opt to change a course to pass/fail after the initial course registration, they should utilize a Registration Form and follow the usual change of grading option procedure/timeline as noted in the Masters Handbook and on the academic calendar.

What is a failing grade?
As noted in the Masters Handbook, grades below a C- result in a grade of F, unearned credit, and have negative impact on a student’s Cumulative GPA.

Can I change my mind about how I'm graded after submitting this form?
No. Once a student has selected their grading basis for a fall 2020 course, it cannot be changed.

Can I take the whole Core pass/fail?
No. However, up to 9 credits of Core coursework may be graded pass/fail. Please note that the credit hours are allotted by Studio; individual components of the Studio may not be graded using different bases. (For instance, students may elect to be graded pass/fail Research Methods as a Studio, but not individually for Quantitative Foundations only.)

Taking 9 credits of Core courses pass/fail would leave zero credits remaining to be taken P/F across the remainder of one’s degree program.
If I do nothing, how will I be graded?
The default grading basis for students who do not request pass/fail will be ordinal grading on transcripts.

Does the pass/fail policy extend to summer 2021?
At this point in time, the policy does not extend to summer 2021. It is only applicable for fall 2020 and spring 2021.

Do courses graded pass/fail from Spring 2020 count towards the 9-credit cumulative limit?
The P/F credits from Spring 2020, that were mandated by Columbia University will not count toward the 9-credit cumulative limit.

Do courses already graded pass/fail count towards the 9-credit cumulative limit?
If a course is already graded pass/fail by design (i.e., the faculty and/or department elected to grade the course pass/fail), it does not count towards the 9-credit limit.