

Accounting majors, minors, and FUTURE majors or minors –

With the recent changes to the rules regarding taking classes Pass/Fail we want to provide you some guidance so you can make an informed decision. We, and the entire accounting department, understand the uncertainty and stress the COVID-19 situation has and may cause in the future, so ultimately it is your decision whether to take certain classes Pass/Fail. However, before making your decision, you need to consider the following possible implications of taking a Pass/Fail grade in an accounting course, or any other core business course. For those of you planning to apply for admission to the School of Business, while ACCT 2001 will be accepted as Pass/Fail in Spring 2020, if you are considering an accounting major, we would caution you to consider the potential challenges of such action.

Before putting an accounting class on Pass/Fail, here are some factors to consider:

1. **Seeking CPA:** If you plan to take the CPA exam, check the educational requirements of the state in which you plan to be licensed. In Connecticut, Pass/Fail is permitted in accounting courses, and we believe that is also the case in Massachusetts and New York.
2. **Internships and Jobs in Accounting:** Over the last couple of days we have consulted with many of the accounting firms that recruit at UConn to learn how they will view Pass/Fail grades. Their approaches vary, with some being open to Pass/Fail and others viewing a Pass/Fail, especially in an accounting course, negatively. All of them reported that they will look at grades in the business core classes as well as accounting classes to determine their candidate pools and internship/full time offers.
3. **Scholarships:** Scholarship opportunities as well as maintaining any current scholarships may consider your GPA. A key factor in the awarding of accounting department scholarships is the accounting GPA, along with the overall GPA.
4. **Applying to Graduate School:** If you plan to apply to graduate school (in accounting or otherwise), there could be policies regarding Pass/Fail grades or GPA requirements. Regarding UConn's MSA, the admissions committee takes a holistic approach when reviewing applications, but accounting course grades carry greater weight. Pass/Fail grades make the decision process more difficult.
5. **Seniors:** If you are a graduating senior with an offer in hand, the decision to take a course Pass/Fail likely will not affect your offer, but you should check with your firm's recruiter to address your questions.

When making your decision to choose a Pass/Fail option in a course we advise you to keep the bigger picture in mind. If you have any questions, or would like to talk about specific classes, feel free to set up a meeting with Erin Leigh through Nexus as we understand that every situation is unique.

As we get new information, we will provide updates both directly and through your accounting instructors.

Erin Leigh
Accounting Recruiting, Career & External Relations Manager
UConn School of Business

George Plesko,
Department Head, Accounting