

PSYC Plan Student FAQ:

Dear Students,

We know you have many questions during these uncertain times. Please know that we are here to help. We are working on mobilizing drop-in advising online, are holding scheduled advising meetings online, and are responding to emails. We will be announcing details on the drop-in sessions soon, and please email ug.psyc@queensu.ca to schedule a meeting, or ask questions. We've got you! 😊

Below are some FAQ to address common questions:

Pass/Drop/Letter Grade: What is this, and what should I do?

With the new changes, students will have an option when it comes to their final grades for this semester (and full-year courses):

1. Students may keep the letter grade that they receive
2. Students passing a course may designate that course to be a "Pass" (P) rather than having a letter grade
3. Students may choose to drop a course without academic penalty if they fail. NOTE If students learn that they *pass* a course once grades are posted, this course can no longer be dropped, but it can be changed to a "P"

The option to drop will be available immediately, and this is something students can do themselves in SOLUS. The course will be removed entirely from their transcript.

The option to change a passing grade into a P will take effect in early May, **after** the final course grades are posted. Students will not need to make an academic appeal to change a grade to P. The Faculty of Arts and Science will be in touch with students as May approaches with instructions on how to make this change. Of course, students may also keep their final letter grade.

Please note that although a "P" has no weight in the GPA, the units earned will still count as units towards your degree.

Both options will be available until May 20, 2020.

What Should I Know About Grades and Plan Selection

Students applying for PSYC plans: Admission into the PSYC Honours plans requires a letter grade in PSYC100. Thus, if you are considering a PSYC Major, Medial, or SSP plan, you must retain your letter grade to be considered.

For automatic admission into the Psychology major, students must have an "A-" or higher in PSYC100. There is no cumulative GPA requirement (it has been removed).

The admission thresholds for the Medial/SSP plans will not change.

There will be no automatic admission into the Minor at this time. Students wishing to add the minor should apply for the pending list, and students will be admitted pending space.

As always, we will continue to consider students for admission who are on the pending list if there is space, and will admit as many students as we can up to our maximum capacity.

Letter grades in PSYC100 are required for consideration for entrance into any PSYC Honours Plan.

Students in the Major moving into third year (Requirements for PSYC301): Admission into PSYC301 requires letter grades in PSYC202 and PSYC203 (an average GPA of 1.9 between PSYC202 and PSYC203 is required as a pre-requisite for PSYC301). Thus, if you are intending to take PSYC301, you must retain letter grades in PSYC202 and 203 to be considered. PSYC301 also requires an average of 2.6 in PSYC courses at the 100- and 200-levels for admission. The PSYC GPA will be calculated excluding any courses that you mark as “Pass” in Winter2020. (A notation of “Pass” does not have an equivalent numerical value and cannot be included in GPA calculations.)

Students Intending to Take PSYC 501: Admission to PSYC501 (Honours Thesis) has a minimum GPA requirement of 2.60 between PSYC 202/3.0, PSYC 203/3.0, PSYC 301/3.0, and PSYC 302/3.0; and a minimum PSYC GPA (not including Supporting Science or PSYC_Subs credits) of 3.30 (equivalent to a B+), following submission of winter term grades. Thus, if you are intending to take PSYC501 next year, you must retain letter grades in PSYC 202/3.0, PSYC 203/3.0, PSYC 301/3.0, and PSYC 302/3.0. The PSYC GPA will be calculated excluding any courses that you mark as “Pass” in Winter2020 (A notation of “Pass” does not have an equivalent numerical value and cannot be included in GPA calculations.)

As noted by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, we strongly encourage students to take time to consider these options carefully. In addition to what is detailed above, students will still need letter grades for access to courses with specific prerequisites and for first-year plan selection (and perhaps for some merit-based scholarships and awards). Please pay careful attention to *course-level* prerequisites as some courses not identified above may also have grade requirements.

Does a “P” count towards my degree? Can I use it as an elective?

Although a “P” has no weight in the GPA, the units earned will still count as units towards your degree. Thus, you can use a “P” towards an elective in the PSYC plan, but please pay close attention to *course-level* pre-requisites that may be required for later courses you are interested in taking.

Will a "P" hurt my chances for law/med/grad school or career?

This is a tough and important question. On one hand, a lot of schools are using this, and we are in truly exceptional circumstances. The entire world will understand that Winter 2020 was an exceptional semester, and will be aware of the use of grades like “P” during this time. On the other hand, post-graduate schools all have their own requirements and quirks. We recommend reaching out to your post-grad schools of interest to hear directly from them about their preferences.

What does COVID-19 mean for my career?

Dr. Norris is going to be doing an interview with Cathy Keates, director of Career Services. This interview is targeted specifically for PSYC students. Please send specific questions that you have to Anja (ug.psyc@queensu.ca), and she will compile them so we can address the most common questions in the interview.

I am struggling financially. Is there help available?

Queen's has made funds available through bursaries to assist financially with COVID-19 related extenuating circumstances. Please see here for more information:

<https://www.queensu.ca/studentawards/financial-aid/queens-financial-aid/extenuating-circumstances-covid-19>

The Government of Canada also has some financial supports available. Information can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=31&v=OLeErO8nXsc&feature=emb_logo

I am struggling with my health. Is there help available?

Queen's has remote resources available for support:

Mental health appointments are available remotely via Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) for students who need to speak to a counsellor. For general counselling inquiries, email counselling.services@queensu.ca

Medical appointments are available remotely (phone and online) for some requests. For general health inquiries, email health.services@queensu.ca

Health lifestyle appointments are available remotely for students who want help changing a health behaviour. For general inquiries, email healthed@queensu.ca

Empower Me is a 24/7 phone service for crisis situations and scheduled sessions that allows students to connect with qualified counsellors, consultants, and life coaches for a variety of issues. 1-844-741-6389 You can also log in to the Empower Me website and use "Studentcare" as the password or download additional Empower Me student assistance tools on the iAspiria mobile app. Enter "Studentcare" as the Login ID and select "Student" in the drop-down menu.

Good2Talk for post-secondary mental health support - call 1-866-925-5454, available 24/7 or text GOOD2TALKON/ALLOJECOUTEON to 686868

I need study support. Is there help available?

SASS has some helpful supports for students negotiating the transition to studying and working from home. You can find this information, and more, at the following link: <https://sass.queensu.ca/working-at-home/>

I need something positive to watch/see/hear. Can you help?

Maybe! If you have something positive that you are benefitting from, please keep it handy. We hope to be sourcing these from students in coming days!

<https://tanksgoodnews.com/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=31&v=OLeErO8nXsc&feature=emb_logo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmzjCPQv3y8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ>

I need some community—it's getting a bit lonely.

We hear you. This is a strange situation for all of us. We are working to mobilize some e-Psychology Department community spaces. We've got some ideas, but if you have ideas for what would be awesome, please email ug.psyc@queensu.ca and we will do our best to build the best system possible.

You are a critical part of our team and community. We miss you, and will find ways to help ensure that our team remains tight-knit no matter how physically far we are. We are in this together.