

# PAA TIP OF THE WEEK

BY: MARY DAVIS '22 BSE



## WHEN AND HOW TO PDF OR DROP A CLASS!

Hey Forbes! Now that things have simmered down from midterms and you've had time to get back into the swing of life at Princeton, you may be wondering about a new acronym floating around... "PDF."

- **What is a PDF and How Does It Work?** PDF is short for "Pass/D/Fail," and involves replacing an A-F grade scale with a "Pass/Fail" scale for a particular course. The "P" in PDF suggests a C- or higher but the "P" itself is not calculated into the GPA. If you receive a "D" or "F" they will be factored into your GPA. Once the PDF has been chosen, it cannot be reversed. Every student has the opportunity to PDF up to four courses during their time at Princeton but cannot use more than one PDF in any given semester. However, if you are in a PDF-only course, you are still able to elect another PDF course for the same semester. The **PDF deadline is Nov. 22 @ 11:59 PM!**
- **When Should I Use a PDF?** PDFing a course is useful for exploring courses of interest, fulfilling distribution requirements or even giving yourself some slack in an overwhelming semester. It can also be used as a tool for redistributing your focus after midterms. **Course-specific policies on PDFing can be found on the Course Offerings listing for each course. Please note concentration prerequisites cannot be taken as PDF.**
- **What If I Decide I Need to Drop a Class?** In the case that a course cannot be graded under PDF, one may consider the drop option. This is often a last resort and should be discussed with your Faculty Adviser and/or Dr. Andrews prior to taking action. Keep in mind that while dropping a course could be beneficial/necessary, it may cause a **course deficiency (a drop below normal degree progress)** that needs to be made up later. The **drop deadline is also Nov. 22 @ 11:59 PM.**
- **Do People Really Use PDFs?** Absolutely! Please know that it is perfectly normal to PDF a course; this is why we have four of them. It can also be a helpful resource for surveying a department, studying something new, or giving yourself more time to focus on other courses in a busy semester!

Remember there is no stigma around deciding to PDF or drop a class. Your Princeton experience is meant to be a learning process. However, before you choose to drop a class, be sure to consult your support team (**PAAs, RCAs, faculty advisers and the Forbes College Office!**)

For additional academic support, check in with your PAAs  
or have a chat with Dr. Andrews

Adapted from Brandon Dunlevy's '21 PAA Tip



PDF