

# PAA TIP OF THE WEEK

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

Hey Forbes! Now that things have simmered down from midterms, you may be wondering about a new acronym floating around...the "PDF." PDF is short for "Pass/D/Fail," and entails opting out of the A-F grade scale, and replacing it with a "Pass/Fail" scale for a particular course. **The PDF deadline is November 26 @ 11:59 PM!**

PDFing a course is useful for exploring courses of interest or even fulfilling distribution requirements. It can also be used as a tool for redistributing your focus after midterms. **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. If you take a PDF-only course, you are still able to elect another PDF course in the same semester.

Course-specific policies on PDFing can be found on the Course Offerings listing for each course. **Concentration prerequisites cannot be taken as PDF.** 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 or Dr. Andrews prior to taking action. The deadline for this option is also November 26 @ 11:59 PM.**

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 or studying something new. Dropping a course could also be beneficial, but may cause a course deficiency (a drop below normal degree progress), and may need to be made up later. There is no stigma around these decisions, and the Princeton experience is meant to be a learning process. **Remember, before you choose, 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



PDF