



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to clarify School for New Learning (SNL) policy regarding Pass/Fail courses.

SNL provides a unique approach to learning for adults, with customized programs that build upon abilities and experiences, add knowledge, and develop skills to help achieve personal and professional goals. A fundamental idea embedded in our academic program is the value of learning from experience. We believe that mixing experiences and interpretations results in lasting knowledge. SNL also values individualized learning, with students moving at their own pace with personalized guidance. And, very importantly, SNL programs are designed to recognize and develop competence. Our students are assessed on their problem-solving knowledge.

As a result of this philosophical perspective regarding education, some classes offered in SNL's programs may be taken by students on a Pass/Fail basis, while others must be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. A "Pass" grade indicates a student has met the course criteria developed by the instructor and demonstrated competence in class materials and topics. Courses graded "Pass" count towards DePaul graduation requirements and should be understood as representing *mastery* of course subjects.

Should you have any further questions about this matter, please contact me directly at [dmurphy@depaul.edu](mailto:dmurphy@depaul.edu).

Sincerely,

*Douglas J. Murphy*

Senior Assistant Dean  
School for New Learning