

COVID-19 Protocol Amending Grades Policy (404.13) for Spring 2020 passed by UA Little Rock Faculty Senate on March 20, 2020:

Be it resolved that enacting a COVID-19 protocol for the Spring 2020 semester requires a temporary modification to the Grade Policy (404.13) as described below. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has authority to extend this option over the summer terms should it be necessary to do so.

Grades of Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) may be administered in the Spring 2020 terms Full-term, 910, 920, 720, 520, and 530. The CR/NC grade may be administered in courses that meet the general education requirements, major requirements, or minor requirements. It is up to a program whether a course is available for CR/NC grading, and it is entirely optional for individual students to decide to choose it. For courses that will include the CR/NC grading, instructors should revise the course syllabus to reflect that change to the grading policy. There is no limit to the number of courses a student may choose for CR/NC grading. Students are encouraged to check with their program advisors for program restrictions and requirements. Programs for which the CR/NC option is not possible due to licensure or accreditation constraints are encouraged to provide a blanket opt-out statement and communicate this to students.

If a program offers CR/NC grading in a course, and if a student chooses that option, the instructor and the student must develop a written agreement for that course. This agreement may be an email exchange and must occur on or before 5pm on the “Last day to withdraw from all classes” date for that term. The instructor must upload this documentation into the new portal created for this purpose in BOSS. Once the agreement is finalized, the student will not be able to return to the traditional grading system for that course. For the purpose of grade conversion, the CR/NC is defined as follows (See current grades policy 404.13 for letter grade definitions):

Undergraduate courses: CR = A, B, or C NC = D or F

Graduate courses: CR = A or B NC = C, D, or F

Commentary: Offering the CR/NC grading option is intended to provide flexibility for faculty and students as they adapt to the unanticipated complications presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. To minimize the impact of these complications on an individual student's GPA, each student has the option to convert any course to a CR/NC grading scheme provided the student's major program requirements allow it and the program authorizes faculty to offer it. As indicated in the policy, faculty in programs that are constrained by licensure or accreditation requirements should examine those requirements to determine if a CR/NC option is allowable. It is possible that those accrediting bodies have relaxed those requirements for Spring 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Furthermore, barring such program constraints, programs and faculty are encouraged to be as accommodating as possible. When offering the CR/NC option, it should be made available to an entire class, not on a student-by-student basis; although it is up to each

individual student to decide whether or not to choose it. Communicate with the students the implications of switching from the traditional grading system. A brief decision tree to guide student decision-making is provided below. Finally, the CR/NC conversion is only for Spring 2020 and was developed to protect students' ability to transfer courses as well as student athlete NCAA eligibility.

CR/NC Decision Tree: Students can use this decision tree to help them make the decision about whether to keep their letter grade or switch to the CR/NC grading scheme*.

| Undergraduate Student | Condition | Implication | Decision |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Most Likely earn an "A" in the course | My GPA is at or below 4.0 | Earning an A will only help you | Keep the "A" |
| Most likely earn a "B" in the course | My GPA is at or below 3.0 | Earning a B will likely not affect you negatively | Keep the "B" |
| | My GPA is above 3.0 | Earning a B will likely lower your GPA | Switch to CR to protect your GPA |
| Most likely earn a "C" in the course | My GPA is at or below 2.0 | Earning a C will likely not affect you negatively | Keep the "C" |
| | My GPA is above 2.0 | Earning a C will likely lower your GPA | Switch to CR to protect your GPA |
| Most likely earn a "D" in the course | My program requires me to earn a C or better in this course | Earning a D will likely lower your GPA and you will have to retake the course | Switch to NC to protect your GPA and retake course/consult with your advisor |
| | My program allows me to count this course even though I earned a D | Earning a D will likely lower your GPA, but you would not have to retake the course. | Keep the "D"/consult with your advisor |
| Most likely earn an "F" in the course | My GPA is at or above 1.0 | Earning an F will likely lower your GPA and you will have to retake the course | Switch to NC to protect your GPA and retake course |

| Graduate Student | Condition | Implication | Decision |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Most Likely earn an "A" in the course | My GPA is at or below 4.0 | Earning an A will only help you | Keep the "A" |
| Most likely earn a "B" in the course | My GPA is at or below 3.0 | Earning a B will likely not affect you negatively | Keep the "B" |
| | My GPA is above 3.0 | Earning a B will likely lower your GPA | Switch to CR to protect your GPA |
| Most likely earn a "C" in the course | My program requires that I maintain at least a 3.0 GPA, but I can earn the occasional C | Earning a C may lower your GPA below that threshold | Keep the "C" if GPA remains above 3.0/consult with your advisor |
| | My program requires that I earn a B or better in this course | Earning a C will likely lower your GPA and you will have to retake the course | Switch to NC to protect your GPA and retake course/consult with your advisor |
| Most likely earn a "D" in the course | My program requires that I maintain at least a 3.0 GPA | Earning a D will likely lower your GPA and you will have to retake the course | Switch to NC to protect your GPA and retake course |
| | My program requires that I earn a B or better in this course | Earning a D will likely lower your GPA and you will have to retake the course | Switch to NC to protect your GPA and retake course |
| Most likely earn an "F" in the course | My GPA is at or above 1.0 | Earning an F will likely lower your GPA and you will have to retake the course | Switch to NC to protect your GPA and retake course |

* Provided that the CR/NC option is available for that course.

** Regardless of the implication of their decision, students are always encouraged to consult with their advisor to inform their decision.