

**Student FAQ:
CR/NC Summer 2020 Emergency Grading Policy**

[Link to COVID-19 Protocol Amending Grades Policy \(404.13\) for Spring 2020 passed by UA Little Rock Faculty Senate on March 20, 2020](#)

[Link to CR/NC “Decision Tree”](#)

(for students and faculty to determine whether or not the CR/NC grading option will be beneficial to a student)

[Link to Programs Opting Out of CR/NC Grading Option for Summer 2020](#)

- **What does this emergency policy change mean?**

Our [regular grading policy](#) states that, in lieu of giving final grades of A-F, instructors can give a student a grade of CR (Credit) or NC (No Credit) for one course a semester in certain courses. Under this policy, a student and instructor have to agree to CR/NC at the beginning of the term.

This [emergency extension of our regular grading policy](#) will mean that students can take advantage of the CR/NC grading option for more than just one class (in eligible classes), and students will also be able to request CR/NC final grading via email exchange with their instructor **as late as 5:00 PM on the last day of classes for their summer term.**

A potential advantage to a final grade of CR/NC is that CR/NC does not factor into a student's GPA calculation. This will provide more flexibility for students who are worried about maintaining their GPAs during this challenging semester. A [CR/NC “decision tree”](#) can help students determine whether or not the CR/NC grading option will be beneficial to them.

- **Why is this needed?**

[Many colleges and universities](#) across the country are adopting similar policies this semester due to the extraordinary circumstances that are disadvantaging some students (e.g., having to vacate dorms, transitioning to online from face-to-face, increased caretaking, illness, income loss, increased anxieties due to all of the above. Additionally, we know from the preliminary results of a recent student needs survey that many of our students have limited access to the internet and computers now that our campus is restricted. Faculty members in the Faculty Senate approved this emergency expansion to our current grading policy to support students during these challenging times.

- **Will all of my assignments and exams now be graded with CR/NC or A-F?**

Instructors will continue to grade individual assignments and exams on an A-F basis (or according to the grading schema stated on the course syllabus). The CR/NC grading option applies only to final grades in a course and is only applicable for eligible courses where a student has documented an agreement with the instructor prior to 5:00 PM on the last day of class for the summer term.

- **Is this optional? I do not want CR/NC because I have worked hard to earn an A.**

CR/NC will be entirely optional. No student will be required to change the grading scheme. Keep in mind also that not all instructors will offer CR/NC final grades for various reasons, and some programs that lead to licensure (e.g., nursing) will also not be able to offer this option.

- **How do I know if the CR/NC grading option will help me or hurt me?**

You can this [CR/NC “decision tree”](#) to help you make this decision. Students should also reach out to their instructors and/or program advisors for guidance.

- **How will this impact my GPA?**

The grade “CR” (credit) and the grade “NC” (no credit) do not factor into a student’s term GPA or a student’s cumulative GPA. CR/NC grades will neither help nor harm the GPA, which is why it may be preferential for some students to request during this challenging semester.

- **Does this apply to students who were already in all online coursework before the health emergency?**

Yes, this will be available to students enrolled in any class in summer terms. Certain courses in certain programs (e.g., nursing) cannot be taken for a CR/NC grade and must remain on the standard A-F grading scale. You can view a list of programs that are opting out of the CR/NC grading option [here](#). Your instructor and advisor will be able to provide more information to you about these specific courses.

- **Will this affect my ability to graduate this semester?**

No, it will have no impact on students’ ability to graduate this semester or in the future.

- **What about this fall?**

At this time, the emergency policy expansion is only for the Summer 2020 semester. No decisions have been made yet about the fall semester.

- **I am a nursing/pre-nursing student. Does this mean I can get CR/NC in my nursing and pre-requisite nursing coursework?**

No, courses in nursing (including pre-requisite courses for nursing), as well as some other programs with strict licensure or accreditation guidelines, will not be eligible for the CR/NC final grading option. See a complete list of programs opting out of the CR/NC grading option [here](#).

- **Will this impact my financial aid or scholarships?**

No, it will not.

- **How will I know if my course is eligible for the CR/NC grading option?**

Your instructor will communicate whether or not your course is offering the CR/NC grading option after program faculty have determined which course(s) are eligible. If you receive no communication about the CR/NC option, you can ask your instructor.

- **Is it up to an individual instructor to decide if a course is eligible for the CR/NC grading option?**

Yes, the emergency policy change stipulates that the program faculty decide which courses in a given program are eligible for the CR/NC grading option. In making this decision, program faculty will consider licensure and accreditation implications, pre-requisite implications, and student learning outcomes in required courses.

- **Is there a limit on how many courses I can receive CR/NC?**

For spring 2020 courses, there is no limit on how many courses a student can receive CR/NC. This reflects a change to UA Little Rock's regular grading policy, which stipulates that students can only receive one CR/NC grade at the beginning of the semester.

- **How long do I have to decide whether or not I want to take advantage of CR/NC?**

Students have until 5:00 PM on the last day of the summer term to document an agreement [via email exchange](#) with their instructors that they wish to take advantage of the CR/NC grading option. Once the agreement is finalized, the student will not be able to return to the traditional A-F grading system for that course.

- **Will CR/NC grades be eligible for transfer to other institutions? What will my transcript look like?**

While UA Little Rock cannot guarantee that all CR/NC grades will be eligible for transfer to other institutions, we are protecting course transferability by following the best practices of colleges and universities across the nation that are also adopting emergency grading policies. UA Little

Rock will notate student transcripts in such a way that will indicate that spring 2020 courses were impacted by emergency COVID-19 pandemic protocol. Transcripts will also provide a special key for the spring 2020 semester that defines CR/NC as follows:

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

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

- **I am an athlete. Will CR/NC negatively impact my NCAA eligibility?**

No, the UA Little Rock Faculty Senate has defined CR/NC in such a way that will not affect NCAA eligibility.