

**Fresno State**  
**Credit/No-Credit (CR/NC) Option for Spring 2020**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**(Last revised 4/24/2020)**

This document contains two sets of FAQs. The first set applies to undergraduate students and particular groups such as students using veteran's benefits, student athletes, and international students. The second set applies to graduate students.

## **Undergraduate Students:**

**1. When is the deadline for submitting a request to select a course to be graded Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)?**

The deadline to submit your request to the Office of the University Registrar is Monday, June 1, 2020.

Important Note: NO additions, deletions, or changes are permitted to a student's record after the degree has been posted.

**2. What grade will I need in order to earn CR grade?**

For undergraduate courses, if you earn a C or better, you may request to have the letter grade converted to a CR grade.

**3. Can I choose which courses I want to take CR/NC?**

Yes, you can choose which courses you want to take CR/NC. Think carefully about your choices. In some cases (for example, some [GE courses](#)), a D counts toward the completion of a requirement. If you choose CR/NC, however, a CR is equivalent to a minimum of a C. In short, a NC could mean you have to retake a class, whereas a D would not.

If you are a graduating senior, consider carefully the implications for your graduation status of earning a NC. You may want to talk to an advisor in your [College Advising Center](#) before submitting your petition to select CR/NC for courses.

**4. How do I know which courses allow a D grade to count toward completion of a requirement?**

For General Education (GE courses), only [Foundation courses](#) require C or higher grade. All other GE courses can receive a D or higher grade to meet the requirement. If the GE is also counting toward major requirements, confirm with your major Department if a D grade will meet major requirements.

For major courses, confirm with your major Department or the [General Catalog](#).

**5. What if I don't know what my grade will be?**

If you are uncertain of what your current grade is in a course, contact your instructor and discuss your performance in the class. Grades will begin to post on May 11<sup>th</sup> and can be found by viewing your unofficial grades in your Student Center.

**6. If I decide to change my grading basis to CR/NC, how will this impact my overall GPA?**

CR/NC grades do not have grade points associated with them and thus do not count in the GPA. The units earned will count toward your degree and meet course requirements (such as a major or GE requirements), but your Fresno State GPA will not change. For example, if you have a GPA of 3.0 at the end of Fall 2019 and you petition for all CR/NC grades, then your GPA will remain a 3.0 at the end of Spring 2020.

**7. If I am on probation, how might taking a class CR/NC impact my academic standing?**

Students on academic probation need to complete courses for a letter grade as they strive to raise their GPA above a 2.0 (Undergraduate) or 3.0 (Graduate). A grade of “CR” will not accommodate such movement out of probationary status. **If students took a CR grade in Spring 2020 this will not count against their attempt to move out of probationary status.**

Important Note: Fresno State will grant all students on academic probation or subject to disqualification an additional semester to enhance their academic performance to move themselves out of probationary status.

**8. I have been academically disqualified and am taking a class through Open University, can I take the class CR/NC?**

Taking a class CR/NC will not help raise your GPA. If you are trying to raise your GPA for reinstatement, think carefully about what is the best option, a letter grade or CR/NC. If you have questions, talk with an advisor in your department or [college advising center](#).

**9. Are there certain courses that would be a bad idea to take CR/NC if I think I can get a passing grade in them?**

For the Spring 2020 semester only, students are able to choose the CR/NC grading option for all types of courses (Major, Minor, Prerequisites, GE). However, some courses have the option to “opt out” of allowing students to receive CR/NC grading in certain courses.

In addition, if you are planning to apply to graduate programs or internships and want your transcript to show a letter grade, rather than CR for a particular course, you may not want to switch to CR/NC for that course. You should also think carefully about courses that allow you to use a grade lower than a C to fulfill a requirement.

In some cases, earning a D will progress you toward your degree (example, some GE courses or major courses – See FAQ #4). On the other hand, if you selected the CR/NC option, a D would convert to a NC. As a result, you would need to retake the class.

If you are trying to increase your GPA, be aware that courses assigned a CR/NC grading are not included in the GPA calculation. You will earn units for courses with a CR grade, but no Grade Points will be included in the GPA calculation.

**10. Can I earn Honors with CR/NC courses?**

Students must take at least 12 units of letter graded courses in a semester to qualify for Semester Honors such as a President's and Dean's List, which are based on GPA. If you elect to take courses as CR/NC and that results in you having fewer than 12 units of courses that assign letter grades, then you will not be eligible to earn Semester Honors. ([University Catalog, Grading Policies & Procedures](#))

**11. If I am retaking a class for grade forgiveness, can I still take the course CR/NC?**

Yes, you can. The policy on grade forgiveness was recently adjusted from the Chancellor's Office. Fresno State will update the exact response for this the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> when we receive more information.

**12. Can I take a GE class for CR/NC?**

Yes, can you take a GE course for CR/NC.

**13. What happens if I earn a NC for a course that serves as a prerequisite for another course I need to take?**

If you earn a NC for a prerequisite course, you will not be able to take the next course and will need to retake the prerequisite course. Most prerequisites require C or better grades.

**14. If I'm unsure about whether I should take a class CR/NC, who should I talk to for advice?**

If the course is required for your major, it would be best to contact a major advisor from your department. If the course is a GE course, please contact an advisor at your [college's advising center](#).

**15. If I am in an accredited program, can I take courses CR/NC?**

Rules differ by accreditation agencies. Please contact your department to inquire about this. A list of courses within departments who have opted out of allowing CR/NC grading basis can be found [here](#).

**16. If I am taking a course through Open University, can I take it CR/NC?**

Yes, you can, but all of the same issues throughout this FAQ document should be taken into consideration.

**17. If I take a course CR/NC, will it impact my financial aid?**

Taking a course CR/NC will NOT impact receipt of financial aid for most students. It should be noted that if you earn a NC then it can affect your "satisfactory academic progress" which can affect your financial aid in the future. If you have questions about how choosing CR/NC might impact your chance of passing a course, please contact an advisor in your [college's advising center](#).

Veterans and dependents using VA Benefits, athletes and international students are subject to special rules (see FAQ #18, #19, #20).

**18. Will students receiving veteran's benefits be able to change to CR/NC for the Spring 2020 term and still have their classes paid for if they receive a NC?**

Although VA does not typically make payments for classes resulting in nonpunitive (i.e., NC in a CR/NC class) grades, if COVID 19 is reported as mitigating circumstances for the student's receipt of a nonpunitive grade VA will pay for the class. NOTE: VA has not changed its policy necessarily regarding non-punitive grade rules, but has allowed this exception as long as it is noted in the student certification that F or NC during spring 2020 was due to COVID-19.

If you have further questions contact the Veterans Resource Center staff at [fveterans@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:fveterans@mail.fresnostate.edu), main phone: 559-278-6036 or website: [www.fresnostate.edu/veterans](http://www.fresnostate.edu/veterans).

**19. I am a student athlete, can I take a course for CR/NC?**

Student athletes must earn at least six degree applicable units each semester along with all other NCAA eligibility benchmarks to be considered making progress towards their degree and remain eligible for their sports. Student athletes may utilize the grading options available to all students on campus (letter grade or credit/no-credit) for purposes of eligibility.

**20. I am an international student. Can I take a course for CR/NC?**

Yes, you can. International students must complete a minimum of 12 units as an undergraduate or 9 units as a graduate to maintain their immigration status. Your choice to change a Letter grade to CR/NC grade will not affect the number of units required for enrollment. Only an unauthorized withdrawal (WU) resulting in a drop below 12 units as an undergraduate or 9 units as a graduate will adversely affect your immigration status.

**21. Should I take an Incomplete (INC) grade in a course instead of choosing CR/NC?**

Students can discuss an incomplete grade with their instructor. An Incomplete grade is useful if a student has completed a substantial portion of the course and is passing the course, but is unable to complete the course requirements within the academic term. A student has up to one year to complete their work, though there should be a date agreed upon by the student and the instructor in the Incomplete Contract approved during the grading period. You will need to accept the conditions of the contract in your Student Center.

If you elect to take an Incomplete grade for a course, do not re-enroll in the course, but instead work with the instructor to complete the remaining elements of the course. When the work has been completed, the instructor will assign a final grade.

**22. Can I still request a late drop or withdraw from the entire semester?**

Yes, drop/withdrawal forms may be submitted through May 6th. Please talk with an advisor in your [College advising center](#) before submitting a late drop or withdrawal request. The Drop/Withdrawal form and instructions can be found at [http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/registrar/documents/forms/records/Drop\\_Withdrawal\\_Form.pdf](http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/registrar/documents/forms/records/Drop_Withdrawal_Form.pdf).

## Graduate Students:

### 1. When is the deadline for submitting a petition to select a course to be graded Credit/NoCredit (CR/NC)?

The deadline to submit your petition to the Office of the University Registrar is Monday, June 1, 2020.

### 2. What grades do I need to earn credit in a graduate course?

For credit (CR) to be given in a graduate-level course (200-299, 500-599, and 600-699 course numbers), you must earn a grade of a B or better. A maximum of one-fifth of the units applicable to your degree may consist of CR-graded coursework.

### 3. What grades do I need to earn in an undergraduate course?

To earn credit (CR) in an undergraduate course (1-199, 400-499 course numbers), you must earn a grade of C or better. A maximum of one-fifth of the units applicable to your degree may consist of CR-graded coursework.

### 4. How will the CR/NC option impact my GPA?

While letter grades are factored into the calculation of the GPA, CR/NC grades are NOT. A minimum 3.0 postbaccalaureate cumulative GPA is required prior to advancement to candidacy, and a minimum 3.0 program GPA, which includes only the courses listed on your *Petition of Advancement to Candidacy* form, is required for advancing to candidacy and graduation. If you expect to earn a grade of C or lower in a course, you should carefully consider selecting the CR/NC option for that course. Your consideration should balance the negative impact that the course letter grade would have on your GPA (if you do not request CR/NC grading), with making satisfactory progress toward your degree. A grade of CR would count as successfully completing the course, while an NC grade would not. Graduate FAQ #2 describes which letter grades result in a CR vs NC grade. Please consult with your graduate program coordinator for guidance on whether the CR/NC option is advisable in your situation.

### 5. Are there any situations where it might be best to NOT elect to take a course CR/NC?

You should consider *not* taking the CR/NC option if you expect to earn a grade of C in a graduate course, and if that course is required for your degree program and/or is a prerequisite for another required course. This is because the CR/NC option would result in an NC grade for a graduate course (see Graduate FAQ #2), which would not count toward fulfilling degree requirements. However, you should keep in mind the impact the grade will have on your GPA. In these situations it is highly recommended that you speak with your graduate program coordinator before making the decision.

### 6. How can earning a CR or NC impact my candidacy form?

Courses with a grade of CR may be listed on the *Petition of Advancement to Candidacy* form, like any other letter-graded course. Courses with NC grades do not count as fulfilling degree requirements and must be repeated or replaced by another course for credit. A C grade in a course may fulfill degree requirements as long as

your program GPA remains at a minimum 3.0, whereas, courses with NC grades will not satisfy degree requirements and must be repeated.

**7. The course that I'm currently taking is a prerequisite for another course requiring that I earn a grade of 'B' or better. Given that a CR can mean either a B- minimum (graduate course) or C- minimum (undergraduate course), how would that impact my ability to register for a course requiring a 'B' or better?**

Departments have been instructed to accept courses completed in Spring 2020, with the grade of CR as fulfilling prerequisite requirements.

**8. What if I'm taking either an internship, clinical, or field placement course and was unable to complete the required hours for the course?**

Please speak with your professor and/or graduate program coordinator to see if anything can be substituted for the required hours.

**9. Can I still request a late drop or withdraw from the entire semester?**

Yes, drop/withdrawal forms may be submitted through May 6th. Please talk with your graduate program coordinator before submitting a late drop or withdrawal request.

The Drop/Withdrawal form and instructions can be found at

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