

Temporary Adjustments to Grading Policies for Spring Semester 2020

Passed by Faculty Senate March 27, 2020

The COVID-19 situation has disrupted the delivery of courses for the Spring 2020 academic term. Due to the magnitude of this disruption and its effect on students, faculty, and staff, the following changes will be made to grading policies for the Spring 2020 academic term. These changes are in effect from March 13, 2020, the last day of face-to-face teaching, until May 20, 2020, when course grades for the Spring 2020 term are due. While in effect, these policies supersede FASLAH and Faculty Senate-approved timelines. Moreover, these policy changes are non-renewable. Any future changes must be run through the normal procedure for policy changes outlined by Faculty Senate.

A. Credit/No Credit Policy

Undergraduate students may choose to convert an unlimited number of Spring 2020 courses to a credit/ no credit grading during the Spring 2020 term. Courses taken as CR/NC during this period would be accepted for major (and minor) and General Education credits.

The decision to change a course to a CR/NC grading must be requested by the student before 11:59 pm on May 1, 2020.

This policy suspends the policy limiting students to 1 CR/NC course per term. Courses taken CR/NC during Spring 2020 will not be used to enforce the requirement that no more than 10% of their courses at UW Stout may be taken CR/NC. It extends the normal deadline for CR/NC grading from the add period (first 10 days of the term) to May 1, 2020.

In order to request a change to CR/NC grading for a course, undergraduate students should submit a request via email to the registrar (registrar@uwstout.edu) with their name, student ID, course name, number and section they wish to change to CR/NC grading. This email needs to come from their UW-Stout email account.

The appropriate standards for CR/NC will be determined by the instructor of the course. Instructors need to communicate to students by April 10, 2020 what the standards for CR/NC are. When determining a CR/NC policy for their course, course instructors are asked to consult with their departments to find the right balance between upholding appropriate standards of work with providing flexibility and compassion to students who are facing unexpected and extraordinary circumstances. Moreover, instructors need to provide sufficient grade information to students by April 24 so that students can make an informed decision about the best course of action for their individual needs.

Undergraduate students need to consult with their academic advisors, program directors, and course instructors to ensure that taking a course CR/NC is in their best interest.

Individual circumstances students should consider include, but are not limited to:

- i. Students with a GPA below 2.0 cannot graduate.
- ii. Students who might need to achieve a certain GPA for inclusion into certain programs (e.g. mechanical engineering) will still need to understand that those requirements are still in place.
- iii. Students considering graduate school should be aware of GPA requirements for admission to those programs.

- iv. Students in lab/hands on/practicum courses should consider whether it is better to use a grade of Incomplete or In Progress over A-F grading or CR/NC.
- v. Students who are transferring. Some institutions do not transfer these credits in to fulfill degree requirements.
- vi. Prerequisites in courses at UW Stout. Students should make sure to connect with advisors/program directors about degree programs.
- vii. Pre-professional programs, including preparation for graduate study after degree completion at UW Stout. Students should make sure to connect with their advisors concerning plans for graduate school.
- viii. Students should note that when retaking a course, a grade of credit (CR) will replace an earlier grade of F in the GPA, but not other letter grades.

B. [Maintain W grade, but drop WU grade for the Spring 2020 term](#)

Students who wish to drop a Spring 2020 course at any time from the “Drop with Penalty” date in Access Stout (April 2, 2020 for many courses) until the “Drop with Greater Penalty” date in Access Stout will receive a grade of W. This date is May 15, 2020 for many courses. No WU grades will be given for courses ending after March 13, 2020.

C. [Suspend penalization of not increasing GPA for students on probation.](#)

Undergraduate students who are on probation for the Spring 2020 term will not move to dismissal status at the end of the term if they do not to increase their cumulative GPA to 2.0 or above. Such students will receive an additional semester on probation.