

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
Spring 2020 Credit/No-Credit Grading Accommodation
University of Wisconsin-Stout

On March 27, 2020, due to the extraordinary effects of COVID-19, the Faculty Senate voted to expand the Credit/No-credit Grading Option to undergraduate students for the spring 2020 term.

Q1. What does this mean?

Undergraduate students can choose the credit/no-credit (CR/NC) option for undergraduate courses in which they are registered in the spring 2020 semester, **no later than 11:59 p.m. Friday May 1, 2020**. Students should closely examine the ramifications of the CR/NC option and consult with their instructors and advisors about the decision. The CR/NC option is available to all undergraduate courses, regardless of modality. Students who decide to continue pursuing a letter grade for a course, and not select the CR/NC option, do not need to take any action at this time.

Q2. How does the CR/NC option work?

- A grade of Credit (CR) will not be factored into the GPA; however, these courses **will** count towards earned semester hours.
- A grade of CR **will** count towards applicable curricular requirements.
- A grade of No-Credit (NC) will not be factored into the GPA; however, these courses **will not** count towards earned semester hours.

Q3. Does a student have to take all their courses CR/NC?

No. A student can decide which if any courses they want to request the CR/NC option.

Q4. How does a student select the CR/NC option?

In order to request a change to CR/NC grading for a course, undergraduate students need to submit a **request via their UW-Stout student email** to the registrar (registrar@uwstout.edu) with their:

- Full Name
- Student ID
- Course prefix, Number and Section (for example, SUBJ-101-003)
- If submitting a request for more than one course, the course prefix, number, and section for each course should be listed.

Q5. What is the responsibility of the instructor regarding CR/NC?

- By April 10, 2020 the appropriate standards for CR/NC will be determined by the instructor of the course and communicated to students.
- By April 24, 2020, instructors will provide sufficient grade/progress information to students so that students can make an informed decision about the best course of action for their individual needs in consultation with their instructors

When determining a CR/NC policy for their course, instructors are asked to consult with their departments to find the right balance between upholding appropriate standards of work and providing flexibility and compassion to students who are facing unexpected and extraordinary circumstances. For

example, instructors of a pre-requisite course that typically requires a grade of C or better to foster success in the next course, may select that in order to earn CR the student needs to achieve work of an A-C letter grade. In other words, CR= A-C and NC=<C for that course.

Q6. Why was May 1st selected as the date to elect CR/NC?

This provides faculty, staff and students a 6-week window to adjust to the alternative instructional delivery modality before making the decision.

Q7. What factors should a student consider when making the decision to elect CR/NC?

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:

1. Students with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 cannot graduate. CR/NC courses do not contribute towards GPA calculations.
2. Students who might need to achieve a certain GPA for inclusion into certain programs (e.g. mechanical engineering, etc.) will still need to understand that those requirements are still in place.
3. Students in pre-professional programs and/or considering graduate school should be aware of GPA requirements for admission to those programs.
4. Students on a scholarship that might need to achieve a certain GPA will need to understand that those requirements are still in place.
5. Students who are transferring to another institution will need to confirm whether the transferring institution will accept the CR/NC credits to fulfill degree requirements.
6. Prerequisite grade requirements for future UW-Stout courses and/or program entry GPA requirements. Students should make sure to connect with advisors/program directors about degree program requirements.
7. Students who are repeating a class in spring 2020 to improve a prior grade. A grade of credit (CR) will replace an earlier grade of F in the GPA, but not other letter grades. The F would be excluded from the GPA; the CR would not add or subtract from the GPA.
8. An earned grade of NC does **not** equate to course completion.

Q8. What if the student wants to take an incomplete (I) or in-progress (IP) grade, instead of the letter grade or CR/NC option?

Either an (I) or (IP) can be used for delays caused in the instructional process due to COVID-19. However, they are not an option if the student selects CR/NC. Furthermore, due to the uncertainties of how soon on-campus operations will resume, an (I) or (IP) should be used sparingly. Courses that serve as pre-requisites and receive an (I) or (IP) could create further delays in time-to-degree completion for the student.

An Incomplete (I) grade results in a “Graded on xx/xx/xxxx” on the transcript and expires based on the deadline for completion of all work determined by the instructor and not to exceed one year.

The In-progress (IP) grade is available for undergraduate co-ops, practica and student teaching. If the undergraduate course requirements are not completed within two years from the term an (IP) is received, the student must re-register for the course to obtain credit for it. During this process, an (IP)

remains on the transcript. When a final grade is assigned by the instructor, it replaces the (IP) and a notation appears on the transcript. Graduate-level (IP) grades expire within one year.

Q9. What if a student wants to withdraw from the course, versus completing the course with the letter grade of CR/NC?

Students that withdraw from the course will need to repeat the course in the future to meet credit or prerequisite requirements. 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. The standard \$15 drop fee continues to apply.

Q10. What if the student is currently on probationary status and needs to increase their GPA? The CR/NC grade option doesn't do that, correct?

Correct. 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.

Q11. Will the instructor know that a student has selected the CR/NC letter grade option?

Yes. Instructors will be able to see each student's grading basis on their Grade Roster in Access Stout.

Q12. What temporary grading policy adjustments apply to graduate students?

- The CR/NC option is not available to graduate students.
- Students that withdraw from a course will need to repeat the course in the future to meet credit or prerequisite requirements. 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. The standard \$15 drop fee continues to apply.
- Graduate 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 3.0 (Masters) or above, and 3.25 (Ed.S. and Ed.D.) or above. Such students will receive an additional semester on probation.

University-Wide Assumptions

- Implementation of the CR/NC grading system will result in suspending UW-Stout's Dean's List for Spring 2020.
- Regardless of the grading basis used, reasonable adherence to the federal definition of a credit hour specifying time and effort expectations is required for each course.
- The student learning outcomes should not be altered based on the change in grading basis.