

Student FAQs for Changing the Basis of Grading

What are my choices if I want to change how I'm graded?

In most classes, there are three options for how a course can be graded this semester:

Option 1: Traditional Grading Policy (A,B,C,D,F)

Follows the [traditional grading policy](https://catalog.csus.edu/academic-policies/) <https://catalog.csus.edu/academic-policies/>

Option 2: Credit/No Credit

If you choose Credit/No Credit for a class, the result will not impact your G.P.A.

Option 3: Letter Grade/No Credit

ABC/No Credit (For Undergraduate level courses)

- An (A, A-), (B+, B, B-), (C+, C, C-) grade will count towards GPA, a no Credit (NC) for the course will not count towards GPA.

AB/NC (For Graduate level courses)

- An (A, A-), (B+, B, B-) grade will count towards GPA, a No Credit (NC) will not count towards GPA

Can I choose different ways to be graded for each of my classes?

Yes, each of your classes can be graded differently, and you can select alternative grading if a department has determined a class to be eligible. Courses that are eligible will appear in a dropdown list when you make changes in your Sac State Student Center. If the drop-down list doesn't provide a particular option, that means it's not available. Students can reference the how-to here:

[Instructional Video](#) – How to change class grading

Which classes have been excluded in this process, and why?

Academic Departments can decide that specific classes have to be graded a certain way. It could be that the class grading cannot be changed because an accrediting body or a licensing board requires a particular mode, or a class is a prerequisite for another one that requires a specific performance standard, or some other reason. Departments had to get approval from the Dean's Office and the Office of Academic Affairs to have classes excluded.

Can all students do this?

Most students will be able to take advantage of these options. If you aren't sure whether to pursue alternative grading, it's a good idea to talk with an advisor. If you're an international student, you should check with your sponsoring agency to make sure you are allowed to change. If you are a graduate level student taking undergraduate level courses you should check with your graduate program coordinators before making a change.

What happens if I don't do anything?

Changing to a different grading alternative requires you to take action. Otherwise, the original grading basis listed in the class schedule (typically ABCDF) will remain. Faculty cannot change the grading system for their courses, only you can opt to change it for yourself.

When can I make a change?

You have the opportunity to make changes from **April 23rd through May 8th, 2020**. Changes during this timeframe will be made in your Sac State Student Center. Once final grades have been posted, the Registrar's Office will update student records and academic standing (this will take a few weeks). After all records have been updated in mid-to late June, if a student realizes they may have chosen a grading basis that is not the best option, they will be able to file a petition to change the grading basis. We will encourage students to speak with their academic advisor to make sure they have talked through the pros and cons of the proposed change. The petition will be reviewed by the Registrar's Office staff. The process will take time as we want to make sure students make a decision that is in their best interest.

How can I tell if it's been done?

After you've made any changes, check the **View My Grades** area of your Student Center. You will see each class show up as "Graded Student" (for letter grades ABCDF), "Credit / No Credit" (for the CR/NC option), "ABC/NC Grade" (for the ABC/NC option for Undergraduate students), or "AB/NC Grade" (for the AB/NC option for Graduate students).

What about courses that are prerequisites for other courses?

In courses where CR/NC grading is allowed, a grade of CR will satisfy the pre-requisite requirement now, and in the future. If you're taking a class that's a prerequisite for another class and you need a letter grade to appear on your transcript, you shouldn't choose the CR/NC option. You should either leave the course as "graded" (ABCDF) or choose the "ABC/NC Grade" option for undergraduate students or "AB/NC Grade" (AB/NC) option for graduate students.

What about C- grades?

For the CR/NC option and the ABC/NC Grade option, C- and above will earn you credit for a course. D+ and below will be listed as NC.

What about B- grades for Graduate level courses?

For the CR/NC option and the AB/NC Grade option, B- and above will earn you credit for a course. C+ and below will be listed as NC.

What if I have financial aid? Do any of these options affect my eligibility?

You will not have to repay any financial aid received for the Spring 2020 semester if you make changes to your Spring grading options. The Financial Aid office is required to calculate your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to degree each year. If you are making timely progress to degree and maintaining a cumulative GPA above 2.0 for undergraduates and a cumulative GPA above 3.0 for doctorate, graduate and credential students; then, then any CR/NC courses in the Spring will have no impact. Remember, the Financial Aid Office has to look at your progress on an annual basis. If you were struggling in the Fall 2019 you may have to file an appeal for consideration of continued receipt of aid for Fall 2020. A change to the CR/NC options for Spring 2020 will have no negative impact.

What if I'm on academic probation?

You can change to CR/NC, but if you do, CR won't help your GPA. You'd be better off changing to ABC/NC. You should speak with an Academic Advisor to determine which choice is best for your specific situation.

What if I'm a previously disqualified student?

If you were readmitted to the University on contract you still need to meet the terms of the contract. Students on contract may take courses as Graded, CR/NC, or ABC/NC. You should speak with an Academic Advisor to determine which choice is best for your specific situation.

Can I ask for a grade of Incomplete?

Yes, it is up to your instructor whether an incomplete grade will be issued. If you meet the criteria explained in the [catalog](#) you should communicate with your instructor to inquire about an incomplete grade. This requires you and your instructor to come to an agreement about what work needs to be completed and the timeframe to complete it. Incomplete grades that are not resolved by the deadline will be converted from Incomplete to F or NC.

Can I still drop one or more classes?

Yes, you have until May 8 to submit the [drop form](#) to registrar@csus.edu from your SacLink email account.

I am a veteran. Can I keep my benefits if I choose CR/NC or ABC/NC?

Yes, if you have Veteran's Administration (VA) benefits you can change your grading option without having to pay the money back. However, the VA "counts" NC as a failing grade, so unlike other students, if you receive NC it *will* factor into your GPA just like an F grade does. You should work with your Academic or Veterans Success Advisor to determine the best option for your situation.

I am an athlete. Is it okay with the NCAA if I choose CR/NC or ABC/NC?

Yes, student athletes will not jeopardize their NCAA eligibility as long as they receive credit for their courses. It's a good idea to talk with Academic Advisors in the Student Athletes Resource Center (SARC) for more information.

I'm thinking about graduate school/medical school/pharmacy school, etc. Does the way I'm graded matter for that?

In some cases, yes. Be sure you know what the graduate programs you are interested in require in terms of letter grades in undergraduate coursework. You should speak with your Faculty Advisor to determine which choice is best for your specific situation.

Will my professor know which option I pick?

No, your professor will grade you normally. The database will change the grade you earned to match the grade basis option you selected.

Will these grading options also be available for summer classes?

We made the change in grading options for Spring semester. Summer session is different because we announced prior to registration that summer session classes are remote (virtual).

Will a course graded CR/NC count toward my major or minor?

Yes, where CR/NC is an option, a course grade of CR will count toward your major. It will count toward your minor too, if you have one, and will meet prerequisite requirements for subsequent courses.

Will a course graded CR/NC count toward my General Education or Graduation Requirements?

Yes, where CR/NC is an option, a course grade of CR will count toward your General Education or Graduation requirements. In General Education or Graduation requirements courses that require a minimum grade of C- (e.g., Area A, B4, Writing Intensive), a CR will meet the requirement.

What if I previously dropped a course and now want to continue the course for CR/NC?

Unfortunately, previously dropped courses are not eligible for re-enrollment.

Document Links

- [Instructional Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clGmpC-vjjo&feature=youtu.be) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clGmpC-vjjo&feature=youtu.be
- [catalog](https://catalog.csus.edu/academic-policies/) https://catalog.csus.edu/academic-policies/
- [drop form](https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/student-services-center/_internal/_documents/add-drop-petition.pdf) https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/student-services-center/_internal/_documents/add-drop-petition.pdf