

Student FAQs for Spring 2021 Grading Options

What are my choices if I want to change my grade option?

The following Grading options for the Spring 2021 semester will be available beginning April 5, 2021. As a student, you will have the following two grading options for most courses.

Option 1: Traditional Grading Policy (ABCDF)

Follows the traditional grading policy found within the Academic Policies area of the University Catalog.

Option 2: 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.

What happens if I don't do anything?

Changing to an alternative grade basis requires you to take action, otherwise, the original grade basis listed in the class schedule (typically ABCDF) will remain. Faculty cannot change the grade basis option for you, only you can submit the form requesting the change.

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

Yes, each of your classes can be graded differently.

What if I want to request a grade basis change for more than one course?

You can make multiple changes within your Student Center prior to May 14, 2021.

From July 1st through August 15th, 2021 you can make changes via the online Grade Basis Change Petition. To request a change for multiple courses you will need to submit an online form for each course.

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 class that requires a specific performance standard, or some other reason.

Can all students do this?

If you change your grade basis within your Student Center prior to May 14th, 2021 you will only see the change reflected for eligible grades (D+ and below for Undergraduate, C+ and below for Graduate) once Spring 2021 grades are posted. After the end of the term, only petitions submitted for eligible grades will be reviewed. If you are considering the alternative grade basis option you should talk with an advisor before you submit the request for change. If you are 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.

When can I make a change?

From **April 5th - May 14th, 2021** you will have the opportunity to change your grade basis via your Student Center.

Requests for Grade Basis changes cannot be accepted May 15th through June 30th.

July 1st through August 15th, 2021 you will have an opportunity to submit a request to change your grade basis option. Changes will be made by filing out the online form. The online form will be made available on the Coronavirus Information for Students website, under Change your Grade Basis for Spring 2021. Students should speak with their academic advisor to make sure they have talked through the pros and cons of the proposed change. Petitions will be reviewed by the Registrar's Office. It could take several weeks for the change to show on your record. Once your request is processed you will receive an email confirmation.

How can I tell if it's been done?

April 5th - May 14th, 2021:

Changes made within your Student Center are immediate. You can view a change in Grade basis within the **View My Grades** area in the **Grading** column next to the course.

July 1st through August 15th, 2021:

After you have submitted the online form you will receive a confirmation that your form has been received. All forms will be reviewed by the Registrar's Office. It could take several weeks before your form is approved or denied. Once your request is processed you will receive an email confirmation. If approved and processed the grade basis change will appear in your Student Center.

What about courses that are prerequisites for other courses?

In courses where CR/NC grading is the default, 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 should not choose the NC option. You should leave the course as "graded" (ABCD).

Does this option affect my financial aid eligibility?

You will not have to repay any financial aid received for the Spring 2021 semester if you make changes to your Spring grading options.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office is required to calculate your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) annually, after Spring grades post.

You must make progress toward degree by:

- Maintaining a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or above for Undergraduates; 3.0 for Doctoral, Graduate and Credential students (grade of NC has no impact to the GPA)

Remember, SAP review includes both, successful (i.e. A – D, CR) and unsuccessful (i.e. F, I, NC, W, and WU grades) coursework attempted. If you do not meet SAP requirements at the annual review, you may file an appeal for consideration aid for the 2021-2022 academic year.

What if I'm on academic probation?

You should speak with an Academic Advisor to determine which choice is best for your specific situation. No Credit (NC) grades do not impact your GPA or Academic Standing. Changing from a (D+, D, D-) or (F) to a No Credit (NC) could help your Academic Standing, however you should speak with an Advisor regarding 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. 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 time frame to complete it. Incomplete grades that are not resolved by the deadline will be converted from Incomplete to F or NC.

I am receiving federal Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits where I receive a monthly stipend. Can I keep my benefits if I choose No Credit (NC)?

Yes. A No Credit (NC) grade does not count towards a degree and it does not impact a student's GPA. Under normal circumstances, the VA does not pay for classes that result in a non-punitive grade. However, if COVID-19 is reported as a mitigating circumstance, you will continue to receive VA education benefits. You should contact the Veterans Success Center to determine the best option for your situation. (Non-punitive means grade that does not earn credit towards your degree)

I am an athlete. Is it okay with the NCAA if I choose NC?

Student athletes will not jeopardize their NCAA eligibility as long as they receive credit for their courses. A No Credit (NC) in a course will not be used for NCAA Progress-Toward-Degree (PTD), as you will be awarded zero credits for the course. Currently, you will not have to pay athletics money back if you change your grading option for the Spring 2021 semester. If you do not pass at least six (6) credit hours during the Spring 2021 semester, degree-applicable for those in their third year of full-time enrollment or later, you will not be eligible for the Fall 2021 semester. However, you will need to talk with Academic Advisors in the Student Athlete Resource Center (SARC) for more information regarding meeting NCAA PTD Requirements.

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.

What if I previously dropped a course and now want to select the alternative grade basis option?

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

What if I received a WU grade and now want to select the alternative grade basis option?

If you received a WU grade you will not have the option to change your grade basis.

Will taking a NC count against my 15-unit CR/NC limit?

No, changing your grade basis to receive a NC grade will not count against the 15-unit limit allowed throughout your academic career.

Is there a deadline to submit a Grade Basis Change request?

Yes, the deadline to submit a request for Grade Basis Change is August 15, 2021. You will not be able to request a change after that date.

If my degree has been awarded can I still request a Grade Basis Change?

Unfortunately, once your degree is awarded you cannot request a change to your Grade Basis.

If I applied to graduate in Spring 2021 can I still request a change to my Grade Basis?

You can use your Student Center and change your grade basis prior to May 14, 2021. If you applied to graduate in Spring 2021 and your degree is awarded you will not be eligible to request a grade change. If you fail to complete your graduation requirements you may be eligible to request a grade basis change. Your Degree Advisor should reach out to you after they review your record.