

AY 2020-21 Grading Options

For AY 2020-21, [Faculty Senate legislation](#) requires that any course offered for a letter grade must also have a CR/NC option. Per standard practice, instructors may continue to offer a course on an S/NP basis. The legislation strongly encourages departments and programs to accept notations CR and S to fulfill degree requirements and/or to adapt degree program requirements as appropriate given this atypical academic year in which many students will be completing their academic coursework remotely.

The [definition](#) of Satisfactory (S), Credit (CR), No Credit (NC), and No Pass (NP) has not changed. A notation of S or CR is equivalent to a letter grade of C- or higher, while a notation of NP or NC is equivalent to a letter grade D+ or lower. Instructors may not establish a different standard for what constitutes S/NP or CR/NC. For example, it is not permissible to state that a B- is the threshold in course to earn a CR or S notation.

Departments and programs have discretion on the local implementation of the legislation, and may adopt different standards for specific courses and individual degrees. If degree requirements will be counted for students earning CR or S grades in courses during AY 2020-21, that should be indicated in the 2020-21 Bulletin.

In some situations, it may be appropriate to require a letter grade in a course to fulfill a degree requirement. Similarly, standards that are more stringent than the university definition of CR or S may be required to fulfill a degree requirement. For example:

- Undergraduate honors may require a grade of B+ or better on the thesis. A student might submit sufficient work to earn CR in the thesis course, yet produce work that is equivalent to a letter grade of B-. In this case, the student would receive the units of credit, but would not receive Honors.
- A doctoral program may require students to earn a grade of B+ or better in a required methodology course; any grade less than B+ would signal unsatisfactory academic progress. In this case a student might submit sufficient work to each CR yet the quality of the academic work might be below the required standard and thus not fulfill the degree requirement.

In each of the examples above, it would be appropriate for the department or program to recommend that students enroll for a letter grade, as this provides clear feedback to students on the quality of their work. Instructors should be prepared, however, to keep track of the equivalent letter grades earned for students who enroll for the CR/NC or S/NC grading basis (i.e., maintain shadow grades).

In all cases, departments and programs should be transparent about degree requirements and advise students on potential consequences when selecting a grading basis for a course. It will

be equally important for instructors to provide [summative evaluations](#) throughout the quarter so that students know how they are progressing in a course and whether they are on track to completing a course at the level required to fulfill a degree requirement (if enrolled CR/NC or S/NP).