

W* EXEC 20-09

Sense of the Senate:

Support for Modifying Existing Grading Designations in Spring 2020 in response to COVID-19

Disruptions: Credit/NC Option(s); Course Withdrawal

M/S/P April 8, 2020

38 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions

RESOLVED: that the Grading Policy ([PM 89-14](#); [AA 2005-05](#)) be revised and implemented for Spring 2020 to address graded classes; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that the Grading Policy be revised to allow undergraduate and graduate students to petition the Registrar's Office to request that **any graded class of their currently enrolled course(s) for Spring 2020, including those previously not approved by UCC for this grading format**, be changed from Letter Grade to Credit/No Credit; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that the Grading Policy "credit/no credit grading option" for undergraduate, post-baccalaureate students for Spring 2020 courses, be:
the grades A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, or C- and the grade NC (No Credit) for the grades D+ or below; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that the Grading Policy "credit/no credit grading option" for graduate students for Spring 2020 courses, be:
the grades A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, and C and the grade NC (No Credit) for the grades C- or below; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that the Grading Policy allow students to petition to the Registrar to change to the Credit/No Credit grading option for Spring 2020; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that any courses not selected to be under credit/no credit option will stay in the current grading format; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that a student may petition to the Registrar for a grade change by June 8th to convert a posted grade to Credit/No Credit (as described above) due to special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic (we recommend a simple process where evidence and fees are not required), with the understanding that there may be considerable delay in updating their transcript to reflect the change; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that each student, will make the final decision on their choice of credit/no credit or letter grade for each course they are enrolled in; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that all advising units and departments/programs offer students advising on the potential effects of using Credit/No Credit.

RESOLVED: that these temporary changes supersede all other relevant university policies regarding Credit/No Credit grades for Spring 2020; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that students who are currently on academic probation and elect Credit/No Credit for courses in Spring 2020 will be allowed to continue on academic probation for an additional semester; and be it further,

RESOLVED: that current limits to CR/NC units be suspended in determination of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), Pace of Completion (Pace) for students; and be it further,

RESOLVED: consistent with the Course Withdrawal Policy ([AA 2006-16](#)), that the “Course Drop with Record of Enrollment Deadline” (W) on the Academic Calendar for Spring 2020 be extended to June 8, 2020.

Rationale

The global pandemic COVID 19 has disrupted the lives of individuals across the nation, state, and Southern California region. These events have changed the mode of instruction at CSUDH for remainder of the Spring 2020, and this alternative mode of instruction has altered the learning experience for students. The change in modality has resulted in extraordinary stress for students, staff, and faculty, including final grading evaluations for courses this term.

The impact of alternative mode of instruction on student success is not yet known, but it requires the entire campus to address the possible barriers and equity gaps created by an entire shift to alternative instruction.

The decision to move to alternative mode of instruction was made in response to a global pandemic and as such did not follow “normal” University Curriculum Review process. Allowing students to request a CR/NC option and withdrawal options for any course in Spring 2020, including those previously not approved by UCC for this grading format, would provide students with some flexibility in grading as a response to this pandemic.

This Sense of the Senate is the product of a broad survey of our faculty exploring the grading options available, peer institution approaches and broad emergency communication with the Senate Executive Committee, the chairs of the University Curriculum Committee, the Educational Policy Committee and the Graduate Council.

We acknowledge the significant workload on the registrar’s office and the advising units to address grade and withdraw petitions for spring 2020. We encourage the administration to provide additional staff support for these efforts.