

LaGuardia Community College

Health Science Department

Credit/No Credit policy as it applies to Health Science Candidacy Programs

On March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chancellor Matos, of The City University of New York, issued a SPECIAL COVID-19 FLEXIBLE GRADING POLICY (<https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/credit-no-credit-policy>). This policy states that “during the Spring 2020 semester, all students shall have the option to convert any or all of the (A-F) letter grades they earn in their classes, to Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grading”. In addition, the policy stated that “if a student exercises the option of Credit/No Credit, the Credit (CR) grade will not negatively impact the student’s satisfactory progress toward degree completion”.

In addition, on April 24, 2020, a Credit/No Credit FAQs document was created clarify the above policy. Of specific note is the section entitled “Students Pursuing Licensed Health Professions Programs” (<https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/credit-no-credit-policy/faq/>). The policy states that “Admission to many of the licensed health profession programs at CUNY is highly competitive. There are more students interested in these programs than there are clinical placements available, therefore there is a selection process based upon a review of the academic record of each student seeking admission.... Opting for a CR grade instead of a letter grade in a course may impact your ability to meet the expected admission criteria and acceptance into the program”.

This communication is to clarify how, the Health Science Programs, who require Candidacy (Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, and Veterinary Technology), will evaluate Credit/No credit grades.

- All students pursuing a Health Science Major requiring Candidacy (Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, and Veterinary Technology) are ***strongly encouraged*** to have a letter grade (A-F) for all pre-clinical and clinical course work.

Please note: The Health Science Programs at LaGuardia have no jurisdiction over the New York State Education Department. Students who accept a “Credit” grade in program courses could be negatively impacted when applying for New York State licensure. In addition, the students’ ability to enter a graduate program (including a BSN completion program, which is required by NYS law) may be negatively impacted by accepting a “Credit” grade for Program Courses instead of a letter grade.

- For the purpose of Candidacy, students who accept a “Credit” grade in any pre-clinical required course, will be ranked as having a letter grade of “C” in that course. This will not be reflected on your transcript in any way, and is purely for internal candidacy ranking. The student will have the option of repeating the course for a higher grade. Congruent with the existing Candidacy ranking policies, the repeated course grade and the original course grade *could* be averaged together. See Program Handbooks for Candidacy Ranking Policies.

Example: Currently taking SCB203 and opt-in to receiving “CR”; this will be equal to a grade of “C” (2.0 GPA) for candidacy ranking; Repeat SCB203 and earn a grade of “A” (4.0 GPA); SCB203 grades will be average together and included in the candidacy ranking as B (3.0 GPA).

- Students who accept a “No Credit” (NC) grade will be required to repeat the course prior to applying for Candidacy.
- Students are ***strongly encouraged*** to seek Program Faculty/Academic Advisement when considering the Credit/No credit option for all Spring 2020 coursework.
- Students are encouraged to seek Financial Aid Advisement for the impact repeating a Credit/No Credit grade will have on their Financial Aid.