

FALL 2020 CREDIT/ NO CREDIT FLEXIBLE GRADING POLICY

Effective Fall I and Fall II 2020

LaGuardia has instituted the following policy:

- Most courses will be eligible for a Credit/ No Credit option.
 - All clinical phase courses in Nursing, OTA, PTA, Rad Tech and Vet Tech (course prefixes: SCR, SCL, SCT, SCO, SCX, SCV) are excluded. Note: SCV101 is not in clinical phase and thus not excluded.
- Students will be able to select this option December 23, 2020 to January 24, 2021 for Fall I 2020
- Students will be able to select this option February 27, 2021 to March 25, 2021 for Fall II 2020.
- Only passing letter grades B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D or D- can convert to 'CR' with credit for the class being awarded (for credit bearing courses), while a failing grade (F) can convert to 'NC', with no credit awarded.

STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR ADVISORS PRIOR TO SELECTING THE CREDIT/NO CREDIT OPTION OR ATTEND A VIRTUAL CREDIT/ NO CREDIT "TOWN HALL ADVISING EVENT".

Special Note for Students in Pre-Clinical Health Sciences Programs

- All students pursuing a Health Sciences 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 Sciences 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.
- Students who accept a "Credit" grade in any pre-clinical required course (Key courses) will receive a letter grade of "C" for that course for the purposes of Candidacy. 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 will 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 receive an "F" for that course for the purposes of Candidacy and will be required to repeat the course. Again, the original grade and the repeated course grade will be averaged together as per Candidacy ranking policies. **ALL NC grades will be required to be repeated.**
- Students are strongly encouraged to seek Program Faculty Advisement when considering the Credit/No credit option for all Fall Session I and II 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.

Detailed List of Excluded Courses

The following courses are not eligible for conversion to Credit/ No Credit:

SCL101	SCO101	SCO175
SCL103	SCO110	SCO200
SCL114	SCO114	SCO204

SCO205	SCT101	SCV213
SCO214	SCT102	SCV220
SCO215	SCT203	SCV247
SCO230	SCT211	SCV262
SCO284	SCT212	SCX101
SCO285	SCT220	SCX105
SCO294	SCT221	SCX109
SCO295	SCT230	SCX110
SCR100	SCT231	SCX205
SCR110	SCT290	SCX209
SCR200	SCT291	SCX219
SCR210	SCT292	SCX245
SCR270	SCV210	SCX260
SCR280	SCV211	
SCR290	SCV212	

Opting In

Students will be able to select this option December 23, 2020 to January 24, 2021 for Fall I 2020.

Students will be able to select this option February 27, 2021 to March 25, 2021 for Fall II 2020.

The process is completed on CUNYfirst.

STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR ADVISORS PRIOR TO SELECTING THE CREDIT/NO CREDIT OPTION OR ATTEND A CREDIT/ NO CREDIT TOWN HALL.

Frequently Asked Questions

[General Information](#)

Does this policy apply to any semester other than Fall 2020?

- This policy applies **only** to courses taken during the Fall 2020 semester (Fall I and Fall II).

What is the purpose of the Fall 2020 Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) Grading Policy?

- This policy was designed in consultation with campus presidents and deans, the University Faculty Senate, the University Council of Registrars, and the University Student Senate **to provide students with maximum flexibility during the ongoing pandemic.**

Does this policy apply to students in all academic programs?

- This policy applies to all CUNY students who are enrolled in credit bearing courses for the Fall 2020 semester, including undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral courses, *with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in. At LaGuardia, all clinical phase courses in Nursing, OTA, PTA, Rad Tech and Vet Tech (courses beginning with the letters: SCR, SCL, SCT, SCO, SCX, SCV) are excluded from the CR/NC grading option.*

Will all course grades automatically be converted to a Credit/No-Credit option? When will this conversion happen? If students need to decide, how will they do so?

- No. Course grades will not automatically convert to Credit/No Credit. The change is optional, at the student's discretion.
- Students will have CR/NC opt-in option available from December 23, 2020 to January 24, 2021 after the University's final grade submission deadline to elect Credit/No Credit.
- Students should speak to an advisor and/or attend upcoming advising forums before deciding to opt in.

Can students elect the Credit/No Credit option for individual courses?

- A student can opt to take the Credit/No Credit option for all, some, or none of their graded classes for Fall 2020 semester, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in.

Are there circumstances or conditions in which a request would be denied, or a student would be ineligible for this option? Can a program prohibit use of the Credit/No Credit option?

- Students will not be denied the right to opt-in to receive a Credit/No Credit grade for a course that applies toward their degree (general education courses, electives, major, minor, and prerequisite courses) based upon this policy, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in. A grade of Credit/No Credit may not be acceptable to licensing, accreditation, or other bodies external to CUNY. Students should consult with their program advisors or the external body prior to making the decision to elect Credit/No Credit.

Are there cases when a student should not choose the Credit/No Credit option?

- **Graduation:** If an undergraduate student's major GPA and/or cumulative GPA is below a 2.0, and the student is graduating, and the letter grade will raise the GPA to at least a 2.0, then choosing the Credit/No Credit option would prevent the student from graduating. **Professional Licensure, Transfer, and Graduate School Admission:** Some professional licensure organizations, and graduate schools outside of CUNY, may not accept a grade of CR. As such, students, in consultation with program advisors, should weigh the potential impact of electing the Credit/No Credit option on their ability to: earn licenses, transfer credit to non-CUNY institutions, and/or gain admission into graduate school outside of CUNY. For example, there are some graduate programs that typically convert a CR grade to a C and an NC grade to an F when evaluating a transcript.
- The University will endeavor to ensure that the flexibility afforded by this policy works in the best interest of students. Students will be encouraged to be in contact with external scholarship organizations, the transfer admissions offices of non-CUNY institutions, the graduate admissions offices of non-CUNY institutions and any organization external to CUNY that could have an impact on their current or future educational or professional plans.

Does this policy apply to any semester other than the one in progress?

- This policy currently applies exclusively to courses taken during the Fall 2020 semester (Fall I and Fall II).

Will this policy be published in the course catalog of each campus?

- Yes. Every CUNY campus catalog will be updated with Policy on Credit/No Credit for students, faculty, and staff.

Is the decision to convert course grades to the Credit/No Credit option reversible during December 23 – January 24 following the University's final grade submission deadline?

- No. After the University's final grade submission deadline a student will have up to 31 days to elect the Credit/No Credit option. Once a student chooses to convert course grades to the Credit/No Credit the **decision is final**. Importantly, there may be circumstances where electing the Credit/No Credit option may not be in the best interests of the student, some of which are described below.

Financial Aid

Will the decision to elect Credit/No Credit impact financial aid?

- There may be cases where a student's eligibility for financial aid could be adversely impacted by electing the Credit/No Credit option, including private scholarships, state student aid, and federal student aid. Students should meet with financial aid advisors prior to choosing Credit/No Credit.
- **Federal Student Aid:** Students who receive federal aid are required to successfully complete courses within a specified period of time, with a determined GPA and at a pace based on the length of their academic program, known as Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). The federal CARES Act allows for a college to exclude any attempted credits that you did not complete, *for class meeting dates that includes December 31, 2020 or the end date for the Federally-declared emergency from SAP calculation*, because of COVID-19. You will not need to submit an appeal for the exception.
- **State Student Aid:** Higher Education Services Corporation (**HESC**), New York State's higher education student financial aid agency, has determined that students certified by the college as impacted by COVID-19 and receiving state financial aid will not suffer negative consequences regarding their current or future awards. You will be required to submit the **CUNY COVID-19 Financial Aid Documentation form** to the college where you are enrolled as supporting documentation. The form can be found here.
- **Private Scholarships:** Private scholarship organizations may not accept a grade of CR. Considering that, financial aid counselors can help students to best leverage the flexibility afforded by the Credit/No Credit option by reviewing private scholarships with students and advising them to communicate with private scholarship organizations. Most scholarships will not be affected by a change in grading system unless they are for more than one year and have academic requirements.

Grades & GPA

How will the Credit/No Credit grades be calculated into the grade point average?

- Neither the CR nor the NC is included in the calculation of the GPA. The CR grade will allow the student to earn credit (*for credit bearing courses*) but is not factored into the GPA. If the student elects an NC grade in place of an F then it is not factored into the GPA, but the student will not earn the credit. A student should carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of electing the Credit/No Credit option, particularly on matters related to graduation, professional licensure requirements, financial aid eligibility, and transfer of credit and/or graduate admissions to non-CUNY institutions. PLEASE SEE NOTE BELOW (under Students Pursuing Licensed Health Professions Programs) ON HOW CR/NC GRADES WILL FACTOR INTO CANDIDACY FOR HEALTH MAJORS.

Will a grade of CR at one CUNY institution transfer to another CUNY institution?

- Yes, a course with a grade of CR earned at one CUNY institution will transfer to another CUNY institution. There are no exceptions to this.

Will a CR grade in a course be acceptable to register for higher level courses in subsequent semesters if the course taken in the fall was a prerequisite with a minimum grade requirement?

- All students opting for a CR grade will receive credit for that course (*for credit bearing courses*). Students will not be prevented from registering for courses in subsequent semesters that require specific grades in courses completed in the Fall 2020 semester, including students who transfer. Prerequisites for all courses, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in, and programs will be considered complete with a CR grade, at all CUNY institutions. Students should, however, consider the likelihood of succeeding in subsequent courses, in which they will earn a letter grade, if they have not mastered the material in a related lower-level course. In the case of programs that fulfill the academic requirements for licensed professions, student decisions to pursue the Credit/No Credit option may impact their acceptance into the program (or graduate program). These students are encouraged to check with their respective departments.

Does this policy impact ePermit/Study Abroad grades?

- The policy applies to all courses, even taken via ePermit/Study Abroad, in the Fall 2020 semester.

Will a Fall 2020 hold or stop prevent a student from selecting the Credit/No Credit option?

- Stops and holds will not have an impact on a student's ability to select the Credit/No Credit option.

Will the CR grade apply towards F-Repeat policy where the F grade was earned?

- A grade of CR is a passing grade, will replace an F, apply towards the F-Repeat policy, and count towards the 16-credit F-Repeat limit (*for credit bearing courses*) but will not contribute to the calculation of the term GPA.

Will the NC grade apply towards F-Repeat policy where the F grade was earned?

- A NC grade will not replace a previously earned F grade.

Will a WU grade convert to a NC grade?

- WU is not an earned grade and is assigned to students who stop participating in and do not complete the course; thus, student will not have option to convert to an "NC" grade.

Will a FIN grade convert to a NC grade?

- FIN is not an earned grade and is assigned to students who do not complete coursework for which they received an INC grade in Fall 2020 semester, thus, student will not have the option to convert to an "NC" grade.

Does this policy apply to a course where a student has already earned any version of the W grades on their record for Fall 2020 semester?

- If a student has a version of the W grade (W, WN, WA, WD, WU) on their record for a course for the Fall 2020 semester, this option does not apply to that course.

Will this interfere with the number of Pass/Fail/No Credit grades that a student can utilize after the Fall 2020 semester which is dependent on local campus policy?

- These grades will not be included in the total number of non-letter grade courses a student may take as per the existing campus policy.

Does this policy impact a student's eligibility for Dean's List/Campus Honors for Fall 2020 semester?

- Credit/No Credit grades are not counted toward the Dean's List and Campus Honors. Students must earn letter grades to be considered for any honors opportunities.

If unexpected issues arise around Credit/No Credit implementation, does there exist a process to ensure that they are addressed?

- Each campus has a grades appeals process that can be invoked if issues arise because of the Credit/No Credit policy.

Will successfully retaking the course in subsequent semesters replace the NC grade?

- No, the NC grade will not be replaced and will continue to appear on the transcript. A grade of NC is not calculated into the GPA; therefore, it will not impact the 16-credit university limitation on repeats. On the other hand, if an F is received in a course, then successfully repeating that course later would replace the F grade in the calculation of the GPA.

Does this policy apply to F grades assigned due to academic sanction for the violation of Academic Integrity Policy?

- No, students found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy are not allowed to opt-in to receive a No Credit grade, as academically sanctioned F grades are not earned grades.

Credit/No Credit Opt-in

When will I be able to opt-in for Credit/No Credit Option?

- Students will be able to elect this option for classes for which they have already received grades for Fall 2020 semester. Students will be able to elect this option after their class grades have been posted in CUNYfirst by their instructor, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in. Students will be able to select this option December 23, 2020 to January 24, 2021

Will students have to apply through CUNYfirst or through DegreeWorks?

- Students will use CUNYfirst to elect the Credit/No Credit option.

I am not able to opt-in for certain courses in CUNYfirst, who do I contact?

- Students will be able to opt-in for all courses but those chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in. Contact the Registrar Office at registrar@lagcc.cuny.edu.

What will this look like on my transcript?

- The grade glossary, attached to each transcript, will be updated to include a notation denoting that Fall 2020 grades of CR or NC, were earned during a major emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If a student's grade is not submitted or posted in time for them to select the Credit/No Credit option, will the student be allotted more time?

- [Campus registrars](#) will be able to assist any student with late grade submissions and or any issue with Credit/No Credit policy, on a case-by-case basis.

Should a student opt for NC if they earned a D and want to repeat the course?

- A passing letter grade (B+ through D-) can convert to 'CR' with credit for the class being awarded (*for credit bearing courses*), while a failing grade (F) can convert to 'NC', with no credit awarded. Still, it is important to understand that under certain circumstances, there is a difference between a passing grade for the purposes of CUNY, and an acceptable grade in the eyes of institutions outside of CUNY, specialized programs such as Nursing, and standards for professional licensure. Students should consult with their advisors before electing the Credit/No Credit option.

I graduated at the end of Summer or I have already graduated. Will I be able to use Credit/No Credit option?

- Once a degree is conferred and student has graduated, changes to an academic record, including grade change due to Credit/No Credit option, cannot be made.

Will a Fall 2020 hold or stop prevent a student from selecting the Credit/No Credit option?

- Stops and holds will not have an impact on a student's ability to select the Credit/No Credit option.

If I am transferring to CUNY from outside the university and my previous school had a mandatory or voluntary binary grading system (P/F; CR/NC) will my credits still transfer?

- For courses taken in the Fall 2020 semester only, we will honor and transfer in binary grades for all courses that would normally transfer, without negative impact on admission, transfer credit, or degree requirements.

[International Students, Veterans, and Special Programs](#)

What are the implications of Credit/No Credit opt-in for International Students?

- International students should consult the campus International Student advisor before initiating this option. For Fall 2020, international students will be able to opt-in to Credit/No Credit without any impact on their visa status if the decision is due to the COVID-19 crisis.

What are the implications of Credit/No Credit opt-in for Veterans Benefits?

- The VA does not typically pay for classes for which the grade received, such as Credit/No Credit, may not contribute to student progress standards for graduation (what the VA calls "non-punitive grades)." Veteran students should consult campus **Veterans Support Services** before initiating this option. [More information is available here.](#)

Does this policy apply to Non-Degree, College NOW, or Early College Initiative (ECI) programs?

- The policy applies to all students taking courses in the Fall 2020 semester regardless of matriculation status, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in.

How will this policy affect undergraduate Macaulay Honors, Campus Honors, Adult and Continuing Education, ASAP courses, and other special academic programs?

- The policy applies to all courses applicable to all CUNY undergraduate programs equally, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in.

[Students Pursuing Licensed Health Professions Programs](#)

I am applying to a degree program in a licensed health profession at my school at the end of this semester. How will accepting a grade of CR affect my admission to the program?

- 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. [Please click here for the policy.](#)

I am a student in a licensed health profession program at my school, currently taking courses in my major. Can I opt in to a CR/NC grade?

- **No**, all clinical phase *courses in Nursing, OTA, PTA, Rad Tech and Vet Tech (course prefixes: SCR, SCL, SCT, SCO, SCX, SCV)* are excluded from CR/NC options.

[Education Students](#)

I am a student in an Education program that leads to teacher certification. How will accepting a CR grade in my Education courses affect my ability to get certified?

- Candidates who complete a registered program would apply for certification through the approved program pathway. In this pathway, NY State Education Department (OTI) looks for the institutions' recommendation for certification in the candidates' TEACH account and does not look at courses on a transcript. Credit/No Credit courses would not be an issue in this case.

I am a student taking education courses because I intend to apply for certification through the individual evaluation pathway. (I am not enrolled in a registered program that leads to certification.) How will accepting a CR grade in my Education courses affect my ability to get certified?

- Candidates who complete college courses but are not matriculating in a registered program and would not receive an institution recommendation for certification, may apply for certification through the individual evaluation pathway. In this pathway, "candidates" must have achieved at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course in order for the semester hours associated with that course to be credited toward meeting the content core or pedagogical core semester hour requirements for a certificate", according to the regulations.
- Students pursuing the individual evaluation pathway who earn at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course may decide to accept the letter grade (and not convert it to CR) so their transcript can be more readily assessed by NY State Education Department.

How do CR grades apply to the general core and content core requirements of NY State Education Department?

- The minimum letter grade requirement does not apply to the general core (liberal arts and science) courses unless they are also counting towards the content core semester hour requirements. Credit/No Credit grades would be acceptable for those courses. In addition, any grade is acceptable, including pass/fail grades, for the 12-semester hour graduate coursework content core for the Professional certificate master's degree requirement if the college granted degree credit for the course.

I am a senior applying to graduate programs in Education. How will the CR grades impact my chances of gaining admission to the NY colleges to which I have applied, given the state's 3.0 GPA minimum?

- Each graduate program will view these grades as they see fit. Many colleges and universities throughout the United States are implementing similar type grading options for students for the Fall 2020 semester, so your transcript will most likely not be the only one with a Credit/No Credit or P/F or P/NC grade. CUNY's Credit/No Credit grades will not impact the students' GPA. You have 31 days after your letter grade has been submitted to decide if you want to opt in for the Credit/No Credit We advise you to use that time to check with the admissions office of each program to which you have applied to make an informed decision.

What other issues should Education programs and their students consider?

- Colleges may give students additional advice stemming from their accrediting bodies, etc. (CUNY will send letters explaining the Credit/No Credit policy to CAEP and AAQEP, in addition to Middle States.) Before choosing this grading option for one or more of their classes, students will consult with their academic and financial aid advisors regarding potential impact to their financial aid, licensure requirements, and graduate school admissions.

[CUNY Credit/No Credit Policy FAQ](#)

Questions?

Office of the Registrar: registrar@lagcc.cuny.edu | Contact your Advisor on [My LaGuardia](#)