

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Bill Macriss, President's Designee to the Board
Interim Associate Vice President/Dean of Students

Subject: December 2020 Board Report

General Information

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday (By Appointment)

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News

Greetings Hornets!

As of the writing of this report, the Student FAQ for Fall 2020 Grading Options have just been finalized. While these FAQs are **subject to change**, I wanted to share them with you at this time:

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

For Fall 2020 there will be one option for changing your grade basis. Standard default grading is A-F or CR/NC depending on the course. For Fall 2020 a modified version of the ABC/No Credit (NC) for undergraduate courses and AB/No Credit (NC) for graduate courses will be made available for students who qualify and for eligible courses only.

Undergraduate Level Courses

- Only students who earn a (D+, D, D-) or (F) grade will be eligible to request a No Credit (NC) grade. A No Credit (NC) grade will not count towards GPA.
- Grades of (A, A-), (B+, B, B-), (C+, C, C-) will not be eligible for a grade basis change.

Graduate Level Courses

- Students who earn a (C+, C, C), (D+, D, D-), or (F) grade will be eligible to request a No Credit (NC) grade. A No Credit (NC) grade will not count towards GPA.
- Grades of (A, A-) or (B+, B, B-) will not be eligible for a grade basis 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?

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?

Only students who have eligible grades (D+ and below for Undergraduate, C+ and below for Graduate) will be approved to change their grading basis. 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. Students graduating in Fall 2020 are not eligible to make changes to their Fall 2020 grade basis. Once a degree is awarded your record cannot be changed.

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.

When can I make a change?

From **February 1, 2021 to April 1, 2021** you will have the 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 Fall 2020*, on February 1, 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?

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" (ABCDF).

What if I have financial aid? Does this option affect my eligibility?

You will not have to repay any financial aid received for the Fall 2020 semester if you make changes to your Fall grading options. The Financial Aid office is required to calculate your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) each year. If you are making timely progress to degree and maintaining a cumulative GPA above 2.0 for undergraduates; and a cumulative GPA above 3.0 for doctorate, graduate and credential students; then, a NC course in the Fall will have no impact. Remember, the Financial Aid Office has to look at your progress on an annual basis. SAP incorporates both, successful and unsuccessful coursework attempted (ie: F, I,NC,W, and WU grades). If you were struggling to make SAP you may have to file an appeal for consideration of continued receipt of aid for Fall 2021.

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 timeframe 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 - 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 Fall 2020 semester. If you do not pass at least six (6) credit hours during the Fall 2020 semester, degree-applicable for those in their third year of full-time enrollment or later, you will not be eligible for the Spring 2021 semester. However, you will need to talk with Academic Advisors in the Student Athletes 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. Grade Basis Changes will only be available after Fall 2020 grades are posted, from **February 1, 2020 to April 1, 2020**.

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 April 1, 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 Fall 2020 can I still request a change to my Grade Basis?

If you applied to graduate in Fall 2020 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.

Upcoming events

Guardian Scholar's Program Fall 2020 Graduation Celebration – New Time

Thursday, Dec. 17, 5:00-6:00pm

Zoom link:

<https://csus.zoom.us/j/86435189586?pwd=MW1RcnM1c0pIckNQWUZ1amNYNDhPdZ09>

Meeting ID: 864 3518 9586

Passcode: 000890