

## Student FAQ on Credit/No Credit Grading Policy (Spring 2020)

Version: 3/25/20

Throughout the United States COVID-19 has presented Colleges and Universities with unprecedented, but necessary modifications to academic activities in the spring 2020 semester. Here at Cedar Crest, instruction was officially moved to completely online delivery as of March 18, 2020. We know that this sudden shift in instructional delivery has been challenging, but we are pleased to see how much the faculty and students have begun to adapt and develop creative ways to complete course requirements.

Now, we look ahead to what the close of the semester will look like. We have been researching decisions which have been rendered at other institutions across the nation. This information update will focus on our spring 2020 temporary grading policy allowing students to elect to receive their final course grade as a letter grade (A-F) or a Credit/No Credit grade. This temporary grading policy applies to both undergraduate and graduate students. Faculty have received a similar document of FAQs to assist you in making an informed decision about your spring 2020 final course grades. Transcripts will indicate that this semester was the semester in which the pandemic occurred (The exact designation will be sent when the language is finalized).

Right now, we must emphasize that you **may not** elect to change your grades to Credit/No Credit until after final grades are submitted. It is important that you receive your final letter grades, review them, and consult your advisor about the implications of letter grades versus credit/no credit. **Currently, the Registrar's Office's top priority is preparing for fall registration. Please refrain from emailing this office about the temporary grading policy at this time.** We have included some important points about Credit/No Credit grades below this note. Please review these in order to make a sound decision about your spring 2020 final grades- you have time to reflect on this choice.

We continue to be encouraged by the dedication of the faculty, staff, and students in response to this unique set of circumstances. Continue to reach out to Academic Services, your professors, and your advisor for assistance and support. Practice self-care, and most of all—be well!

### Credit Grades Will:

- Count for credit.
- Count toward student academic progress.
- Count toward degree completion.
- Count toward a major/minor.
- Count toward a Liberal Arts Curriculum (LAC) course requirement.
- Appear on your transcript as Credit (CR)
- Fulfill a prerequisite course requirement for a future course, even if there was a minimum letter grade requirement previously.
- Fulfill financial aid requirements.

### Credit Grades Will NOT:

- Be calculated in your GPA. Remember a grade of Credit/No Credit will not be calculated in a GPA, but letter grades will be.
- Count toward Dean's List recognition. For Dean's List recognition you would need to complete at least 12 credits with a letter grade and quality points.
- Count toward graduation with honors. For graduation with honors, 60 letter grade credits are required.
- Count toward induction into the College's Honor Society, Delphi-there is also a minimum number of letter grade credits required.
- Be guaranteed to satisfy regulatory or accreditation requirements for external pre-professional certification agencies (such as State Boards of Nursing).

### Non-Credit Grades WILL:

- Appear on your transcript as No Credit (NC).

### Non-Credit Grades Will NOT:

- Count for credit.
- Count toward your academic progress.
- Count toward your degree completion.
- Count toward your major/minor.
- Count toward the Liberal Arts Curriculum.
- Fulfill a pre-requisite requirement for a future course.
- Fulfill financial aid requirements.
- Be calculated in your GPA.
- Satisfy regulatory or accreditation requirements for external pre-professional certification agencies (such as State Boards of Nursing).

### How will I declare my grading option?

You will complete a grading decision form which will go directly to the Registrar's Office. You will have one week (7 days) after you receive your final letter grades to submit this form.

### What if I do not complete the grading decision form?

If you do not complete the grading option form by May 26, 2020, your grades will remain as letter grades on your transcript.

### What is my advisor's role in my decision process?

Your academic advisor is a source of information for you. Your advisor can answer your questions, discuss the implications of your choice (such as Dean's List, application to graduate school, honors, etc.) Your advisor cannot make the decision for you, but your advisor is a resource for you, and someone with whom you should discuss your reasoning for your decision.

### How will credit/non-credit grades be viewed by professional programs or graduate school reviewing my transcripts?

Since this situation is unprecedented, we recommend that you check with professional organizations or other contacts at these schools. Cedar Crest is not making a novel decision in this regard. Other Colleges and Universities will be awarding credit/no credit grades for this semester. As mentioned above, there will be a notation on all transcripts for the spring 2020 semester indicating that this was an atypical semester.

### How will credit/non-credit grades be viewed by regulatory or accreditation agencies in accredited programs that provide pre-professional certification (such as Nursing)?

This may vary depending on the program, and you should consult your academic advisor for specifics prior to selecting the credit/no-credit option. CR designations may not satisfy regulatory agency or accreditation organization requirements for academic programs.

### If I make a grading decision and change my mind, how will this grade change be handled?

Once you convert to Credit/No Credit, you will have seven (7) days to retract that decision and have the grade awarded reflected on the transcript permanently. If you elect to have the "Credit/No Credit" designation for their course work, your decision will be final on May 26, 2020 and cannot be retracted.

### What if I was repeating a course to improve my GPA?

If you elect Credit as your final grade, the course will not impact your GPA. If your letter grade is an improvement of your previous course grade, you should consider keeping the letter grade to improve your GPA.

### Do I need to repeat a course in which I received a grade of No Credit?

This will depend on how the course was being utilized in your degree completion plan. If it was a major/minor requirement, then yes, the course must be repeated. If it was a LAC requirement, then you will need to take a course with the same LAC designation, but not necessarily repeat the same course. If the course was strictly an elective, then no, the course does not have to be repeated. If the course was needed to reach the 120-credit requirement for graduation, then another course (but not necessarily the same course) will be needed to be completed.

### Will electing Credit/No Credit grades impact my scholarship?

Most scholarships are based on a student's overall GPA and successful progress toward degree completion. If your scholarship is from the College, check with Student Financial Services. If the scholarship is from an external entity, check with a representative of that organization.