

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
ACADEMIC SENATE

Extension of Spring 2020 CR/NC and Withdrawal Deadlines

RES 192018

EC

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommends extending the Spring 2020 Academic Calendar deadlines for “Last Day to Change between Credit/No-Credit and Letter Grading”, and for “Last Day to Withdraw from Classes for a Serious and Compelling Reason” to May 1, 2020. And be it further:

RESOLVED: That reasons related to the change to alternative delivery in Spring 2020 or related to the California COVID-19 shelter at home order (such as, but not limited to: changes in work schedules for essential workers; having to homeschool their children, siblings, or relatives’ children; changes in caregiving schedules for relatives or friends; and so on) be considered a serious and compelling reason to request withdrawing from a course or a reason for changing the grading mode from Letter to CR/NC.

RATIONALE: In response to the change to alternative delivery and other situations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, many institutions are considering how to handle letter-graded courses in the current term. The Chancellor’s Office has issued guidelines on grading policies in the CSU in response to the pandemic (see attached document labeled “California State University Grading Policy Considerations: Response to COVID-19 Disruptions” dated March 25, 2020).

As outlined in the Chancellor’s Office guidelines, there are many negative consequences to switching courses to a non-letter grading mode. Students on financial aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) need to complete sufficient letter-graded courses to maintain future financial aid eligibility. Under current VA policy, veteran students would have to return any funds associated with courses switched from letter grade to CR/NC. Student athletes must be enrolled in at least 9 units of letter-graded courses. International students must have sufficient letter-graded course units to maintain their immigration status. Many academic programs, graduate school admissions offices, and external licensure, accreditation, and certification entities require letter grades in courses or have other negative consequences for CR/NC grades on the transcript.

The Chancellor's Office guidelines state that it is within a campus's purview to change the deadlines for student requests to change from letter-grade to CR/NC grading mode, with appropriate consultation with the campus's Senate and student government. CSUB's CR/NC grading request deadline, listed in the Academic Calendar as "Last Day to Change between Credit/No-Credit and Letter Grading", is currently defined in the catalog as happening on Census Day.

In addition to changing the deadline to request switching to CR/NC grading mode, the Associate Deans of CSUB have requested extending the deadline to withdraw from a course for serious and compelling reasons and to add reasons related to the switch alternative delivery to the list of serious and compelling reasons.

Given the circumstances and the Chancellor's Office guidelines, the recommendation is to extend both deadlines through May 1, 2020. Having a single new deadline for both extensions will simplify communications and avoid confusion. Extending the deadlines through May 1st will give sufficient time to inform students of their options and of the consequences of switching to CR/NC grading mode. It will also give students sufficient time to determine if they wish to request either a change in grading mode or to drop a course.

Students would be responsible for requesting a switch to CR/NC grading mode for specific course(s) or for requesting to drop course(s) by the new deadline. Faculty and staff members approving the request to switch to CR/NC grading mode should verify students are aware of the negative consequences of switching grade modes before approving the request.

Attachment: "California State University Grading Policy Considerations: Response to COVID-19 Disruptions" dated March 25, 2020.

Distribution List:

President
Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
Interim AVP Faculty Affairs
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Department Chairs
General Faculty

Approved by the Academic Senate April 2, 2020
Sent to the President April 10, 2020