2020-2021 Academic Year
Alternative Grading Policy – Course FAQ Sheet

E lecting an Alternative Grading Option

1. Which courses are eligible for the alternative grading option? ................................................................. 2
2. Is Summer 2020 eligible? ................................................................................................................................. 2
3. Is selection for an alternative grading option course-by-course, or for the full semester? ................................ 2
4. When I am making my selection, I can see my updated Term GPA. How will that impact my Cumulative GPA? ........................................................................................................ 2
5. When is the due date to have my alternative grading option(s) selected? .................................................... 2
6. How do I select an alternative grading option for my course(s)? ................................................................. 2
7. Can I change my alternative grading option, even after grading cycle for a semester is completed? .......... 3
8. What happens if I don’t select an alternative grading option for a course? .................................................. 3
9. Which grading option is better? .......................................................................................................................... 3
10. If I opt not to have my faculty awarded grades applied to my record – can I still see them? ......................... 3

Administrative Grades

1. What happens if I receive a grade of NG (No Grade) or IP (In Progress) during the 2020-2021 Academic Year? .......................................................................................................................... 3
2. What if I receive/elect to receive an administrative grade (AU; P/F; M; W; Y; Z)? .............................................. 3

Repeating Courses

1. How does this policy impact the amount of repeats I am permitted? .............................................................. 3
2. What happens if I repeated a course during the 2020-2021 Academic Year that I took previously? ................. 4
3. What happens if I repeat a course I was enrolled in during the 2020-2021 Academic Year in a future semester? ............................................................................................................................ 4
4. Can I elect to not have my grade earned during the 2020-2021 Academic Year override a grade previously earned? .......................................................................................................................... 4

Eligibility

1. How did these grading options impact my athletic eligibility? ........................................................................ 4
2. How do these grading options impact my eligible for Dean’s List? .............................................................. 4
3. How do these grading options impact my ability to enroll in future courses? ............................................... 4
4. I am an Undergraduate Student on Academic Probation – what are the impacts of these grading options? ........................................................................................................................................ 4
5. I am transferring to another College/University – how will they interpret alternative grading options? .......... 4

Degree Completion/Degree Progress

1. How do these grading options impact my ability to graduate with Honors? ................................................... 5
2. How do these classes appear on my Degree Progress Report? ....................................................................... 5
3. I am enrolling into a Graduate Program – how will they interpret these alternative grading options? .......... 5

Contact

1. I can’t decide if I made the correct grading option for a course – who can I contact? ..................................... 5
2. Can I change my alternative grading option? .................................................................................................. 5
Electing an Alternative Grading Option

1. Which courses are eligible for the alternative grading option?
   All courses occurring during Fall 2020, Winter 2020/21, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021 are eligible to have an alternative grading option selected.

2. Is Summer 2020 eligible?
   The 2020-2021 alternative grading policy was only approved to be applied to Fall 2020, Winter 2020/21, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021 semesters. It is not approved to be retroactively applied to Summer 2020. Please remember that retroactive changes to a semester are not possible as students have graduated and their academic records are now sealed.

3. Is selection for an alternative grading option course-by-course, or for the full semester?
   Selection is on a course-by-course basis.

4. When I am making my selection, I can see my updated Term GPA. How will that impact my Cumulative GPA?
   Cumulative GPAs are determined by taking your total number Quality Points (referred to as “Points” on your transcript) and dividing it by your total amount of GPA Units (total amount of attempted credits being used towards your GPA calculation).

   The impact of a TERM GPA on a CUMULATIVE GPA is dependent on several factors, such as:
   1. How many credits are being used in the GPA calculation (GPA Units)
   2. Grades earned in those courses
   3. How many GPA Units have been completed in previous semesters - cumulative GPAs become harder to change as your progress towards degree completion. As more GPA Units are completed, the less impact Quality Points have when the cumulative GPA is calculated.

   Be aware that the highest possible Term GPA does not necessarily produce the highest possible Cumulative GPA. Please visit the Registrar’s Grading website (https://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/gpa.aspx) for information regarding how GPA’s are calculated.

5. When is the due date to have my alternative grading option(s) selected?
   The due date for the alternative grading option(s) will vary semester-to-semester. Please visit the Alternative Grading website (https://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/alternativeGradingPolicy.aspx) for specific dates.

6. How do I select an alternative grading option for my course(s)?
   The alternative grading selection tool will be made available for a specific timeframe every semester via myWCU. Please visit the Alternative Grading website (https://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/alternativeGradingPolicy.aspx) for specific dates.

   To make your selection(s), log into your myWCU and click on Alternate Grade Selection tile. For more detailed directions, please visit https://www.wcupa.edu/academicEnterpriseSystems/training/alternativeGradingOptions.aspx.
7. Can I change my alternative grading option, even after grading cycle for a semester is completed?
   Our expectation is that all students will make their alternative grade selection(s) by the published deadline each semester. To inquire if your alternative grade selection can be updated, please email grades@wcupa.edu. In that communication, please indicate the course(s) and which option you would like applied.

8. What happens if I don’t select an alternative grading option for a course?
   If a selection is not made for a course, option 1 will be auto-selected.

9. Which grading option is better?
   Neither grading option is better in a general sense. The alternative grading options were put in place to reduce stress and help students focus on learning. Choosing which grading option will work better for you is a very individual decision and can be very specific to a particular course. The option you choose may depend on your learning style, the challenge level of the subject matter, and if the instructional delivery had any impact on you as a learner.

10. If I opt not to have my faculty awarded grades applied to my record – can I still see them?
    Yes. You can access your Original Grade Report from your myWCU account. The Original Grade Report is an official document containing the original faculty awarded grades earned during the semester selected. Log into your myWCU account (https://my.wcupa.edu) and click on the Academic Records tile. From the left-hand navigation panel, select View Grades and select the semester. There will be a link to the Original Grade Report for that semester at the bottom of the page. Please be aware that this link will only appear for the semester in which the Alternative Grading Option was available.

Administrative Grades

1. What happens if I receive a grade of NG (No Grade) or IP (In Progress) during the 2020-2021 Academic Year?
   Once your final grade is submitted and posted for the course, you will receive an email and be given 1 week to select an alternative grading option. If you would like to change your alternative grading option, please email grades@wcupa.edu.

2. What if I receive/elect to receive an administrative grade (AU; P/F; M; W; Y; Z)?
   (AU): Audit; (P/F): Pass/Fail; (M): Military Withdrawal; (W): Course/Term Withdrawal; (Y): Administrative Withdrawal; (Z): Administrative Failure.

   The administrative grades listed above do not qualify for the alternative grading policy.

Repeating Courses

1. How does this policy impact the amount of repeats I am permitted?
   All courses that are repeated during the 2020-2021 Academic Year will not count towards the institutional limit of six (6) undergraduate career repeats or two (2) graduate career repeats.
2. What happens if I repeated a course during the 2020-2021 Academic Year that I took previously?
The most recent grade received for the course during the 2020-2021 Academic Year, regardless of what option was selected, will continue to eliminate the grade earned in the course from the previous semester. The former grade will appear on the transcript, but it will no longer calculate in your GPA. Depending on the alternative grading option selected, the new grade may or may not calculate in your GPA.

3. What happens if I repeat a course I was enrolled in during the 2020-2021 Academic Year in a future semester?
If you repeat a course in a future semester, once the grade is posted, the grade you received for the course during the 2020-2021 Academic Year will still appear on your record, but will not be calculated in your GPA (if applicable - depending on the alternative grading option you selected).

4. Can I elect to not have my grade earned during the 2020-2021 Academic Year override a grade previously earned?
Per WCU policy, the most recent grade for a course, regardless of being higher or lower, is the official grade of record.

**Eligibility**

1. How did these grading options impact my athletic eligibility?
   Please connect with Athletics to understand how the alternative grading basis impacted your ability to remain eligible for athletic participation.

2. How do these grading options impact my eligible for Dean’s List?
   More information will be provided shortly.

3. How did these grading options impact my ability to enroll in future courses?
   More information will be provided shortly.

4. I am an Undergraduate Student on Academic Probation – what are the impacts of these grading options?
   More information will be provided shortly.

5. I am transferring to another College/University – how will they interpret alternative grading options?
   Unfortunately, we cannot provide an answer to this question. This is an unprecedented situation and institutions across the county implemented similar policies as WCU to help their students succeed. Our recommendation would be to call the institution you will be attending and inquire about their transfer credit policies, specifically regarding alternative grading models applied due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If your faculty awarded grades are not listed on your transcript, see if they will accept the semester Original Grade Report.
Degree Completion/Degree Progress

1. How do these grading options impact my ability to graduate with Honors?
   Graduating with honors is awarded based off your final cumulative GPA. If you wanted a grade in a course to be included in your GPA, you needed to opt to keep the grade earned in the course, rather than choosing a grade of Satisfactory (S). Alternatively, grades of Earned Credit (E), Satisfactory (S), and No Credit (N) do not impact your GPA.

2. How do these classes appear on my Degree Progress Report?
   All courses for which a student earns credit will appear on the DPR and count toward the degree. Some majors, minors, and/or certificates need a minimum grade in a course to satisfy the degree requirements. Students are encouraged to reach out to their academic advisor or department chairperson to understand how the satisfactory grade (S) fulfills degree requirements needing minimum grades.

3. I am enrolling into a Graduate Program – how will they interpret these alternative grading options?
   Unfortunately, we cannot provide an answer to this question. This is an unprecedented situation and institutions across the county implemented similar policies as WCU to help their students succeed. Our recommendation is to call the Office of Admissions at the institution you will be/have applied to attend and inquire about their approach to admitting students who have elected to be graded differently for a semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If your faculty awarded grades are not listed on your transcript, see if they will accept the semester 2020 Original Grade Report.

Contact

1. I can’t decide if I made the correct grading option for a course – who can I contact?
   Undergraduate students can contact their academic advisor or department chairperson for guidance. Graduate Students can contact their academic advisor, graduate coordinator, or department chairperson for assistance.

2. Can I change my alternative grading option?
   We are asking that to email grades@wcupa.edu to inquire if your alternative grading option can be updated. In that communication, please indicate the course(s) and which option you would like applied.