

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

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## 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 20/21, 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 making my selection, I can recalculate my Term and Cumulative GPA. How are Cumulative GPAs calculated?

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. 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.

8. 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](mailto:grades@wcupa.edu). In that communication, please indicate the course(s) and which option you would like applied.

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.

## Course Attendance and Administrative Grades

1. Can I just stop attending a course and not notify anyone? **NO!**

**You cannot just stop attending a course without providing official notice.** A grade of “Z” is given when a student stops attending a course and fails to officially withdrawal from it. Since this is an administrative grade, it is not eligible to have the alternative grading policy applied. A grade of “Z” will remain a “Z”. This grade will have severe negative impacts on your Term and Cumulative GPA. It may also have implications on your financial aid.

Each course has a course withdrawal deadline date. The easiest way to find the course deadline date is to look in your myWCU. Click on the **Classes** tile. Under **Manage Classes**, your semester schedule should be listed. Find the class and look for the **Course Withdraw Deadline**.

Class	Session	Schedule
ANT 322-01 LEC (2095)	01-Full	TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM Add/Drop Deadline: 02-01-2021 Course Withdraw Deadline: 03-29-2021

The Course Withdraw Deadline for courses in session 01 (Full 15-Weeks), session 71 (1<sup>st</sup> 7-Weeks), and session 72 (2<sup>nd</sup> 7-Weeks) can also be found on the [Academic Calendar](#).

If the Course Withdraw Deadline is passed, you will need to consider withdrawing from the semester by the Session Withdrawal Deadline. You will need to complete an [Undergraduate Term and/or University Withdrawal Request](#) (undergraduate students) or [Graduate Term and/or University Withdrawal Request](#) (graduate students).

2. 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](mailto:grades@wcupa.edu).

3. 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?

Degree-seeking students who complete 12 or more graded credit hours in an academic semester and achieve a semester GPA (Term GPA) of 3.670 or better are placed on the dean's list. The faculty awarded grades of A through D-, along with the alternative grading policy grades of "S" (Satisfactory) and "E" (Earned Credit) are considered "graded credit hours". Faculty awarded grades of F and the alternative grade of "N" (No Credit) are not considered "graded credit hours".

3. How do these grading options impact my ability to enroll in future courses?

**Undergraduate Courses:** If the course is serving as a prerequisite for another course you need to complete in the future, a grade from A through C- and S (Satisfactory) will fulfill all prerequisites where it states that a minimum grade is required. A grade of E (Earned Credit) and N (No Credit) will not satisfy any prerequisites for a course.

**Graduate Courses:** If the course is serving as a prerequisite for another course you need to complete in the future, a grade from A through B- and S (Satisfactory) will fulfill all prerequisites where it states that a minimum grade is required. A grade of E (Earned Credit) and N (No Credit) will not satisfy any prerequisites for a course.

4. I am an Undergraduate Student on Academic Probation – what are the impacts of these grading options?

Academic standing actions are determined by your cumulative GPA. A student on academic probation whose cumulative GPA rises to 2.00 or above will be returned to good academic standing. A student on probation whose cumulative GPA remains below 2.00 will be marked for dismissal and required to appeal to remain enrolled for the spring. Information on the dismissal appeal process can be found here: <https://www.wcupa.edu/viceProvost/probationDismissal.aspx>

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 and what if my program has minimum grade requirements?

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, but student retain the ability to select the alternative grading option that works best for them on a course-by-course basis.

If the student receives a grade that satisfies degree requirements, they have the ability to keep the original grade or have the alternative grading option applied. With either choice, the DPR will reflect that the degree requirements were met.

Similarly, if the student does not receive a grade that satisfies degree requirement, they have the ability to keep the original grade or have the alternative grading option applied. With either choice, the DPR will reflect that the degree requirements have not been met.

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](mailto: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.