

Spring 2020 - Alternative Grading Policy – Course FAQ Sheet

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Electing an Alternative Grading Option

1. Which Spring 2020 courses were eligible for the alternative grading option?
All Spring courses that ended after March 8, 2020 were eligible to have alternative grading option selected.
2. Was selection for an alternative grading option course-by-course, or for the full semester?
Selection was on a course-by-course basis.
3. When was the due date to have my alternative grading option(s) selected?
We asked students to select a grading option within 1 week after the grade was posted for the class. If your class took place during Session 01 (full 15-weeks of the semester) or Session 72 (second 7-weeks of the semester), grades were posted on Thursday, May 14, 2020.
4. How did I select an alternative grading option for my course(s)?
The grading option selection tool was available in myWCU starting Wednesday April 22, 2020. It is no longer available, as the time to select your alternative grading option has passed.
5. Can I change my alternative grading option, even though the Spring 2020 grading cycle is completed?
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.
6. What happened if I didn't select an alternative grading option for a course?
If a selection was not made for a course, option 1 was auto-selected.
7. 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 change in instructional delivery had any impact on you as a learner.
8. I selected 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 Spring 2020 semester. Log into your myWCU account (<https://my.wcupa.edu>) and look for the Spring 2020 Original Grade Report link, under the Academic Information section.

Administrative Grades

1. What happens if I received a grade of NG (No Grade) or IP (In Progress) for Spring 2020?
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.
2. What if I received/elected 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 were repeated in the Spring semester 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 in Spring 2020 that I took previously?

The grade you received for the Spring course, 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 for Spring, the new grade may or may not calculate in your GPA.

3. What happens if I repeat a course I was enrolled in for Spring 2020 during a future semester?

If you repeat a course in a future semester, once the grade is posted, the grade you received for the course in Spring 2020 will still appear on your record, but will not be calculated in your GPA (*if applicable - depending on the alternative grading option you selected in Spring 2020*).

4. Can I elect to not have my Spring 2020 grade override a grade earned in a previous semester?

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 did these grading options impact my eligibility for Dean's List?

Dean's list is determined by the number of graded hours in a semester AND the overall semester GPA. If you selected an alternative grading option where the grade cannot impact your GPA, that course will not be included in your semester GPA.

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

Undergraduate Courses: If your Spring course serves as a prerequisite for a course you need to complete in the future, a grade of 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 your Spring course serves as a prerequisite for a course you need to complete in the future, a grade of 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?

WCU students continued to demonstrate incredible resilience and commitment to their education in the face of the global health crisis caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent impacts on the spring 2020 semester. To support students' continued academic progress, we did not process any academic dismissals for students who did not meet the 2.00 good academic standing cumulative GPA minimum.

- Students who dropped below the 2.00 cumulative GPA requirement at the conclusion of the Spring semester were placed on academic warning status.
 - Academic warning will not be recorded on a student's official transcript.
 - Students have one full semester (12 credits) to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.00
 - Students on academic warning will work with their advisors to develop an Academic Success Plan, which will outline the approach and resources available to raise the student's GPA.
- Students who were already on probation during the Spring 2020 semester either returned to good academic standing if their cumulative GPA reached a 2.00 at the conclusion of the Spring 2020 semester; or were placed on extended probation.
 - Students on extended probation will have one full semester (12 credits) to raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.00.
 - Students on extended probation will work with their advisors to develop an Academic Success Plan, which will outline the approach and resources available to raise the student's GPA.
- Students who concluded the Spring 2020 semester with no cumulative GPA are required to work with their advisor to develop an Academic Success Plan, which will outline the approach and resources available to raise the student's GPA.

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 a Spring 2020 Original Grade Report.

Degree Completion/Degree Progress

1. How did 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 a Spring 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.