



WCU Alternative Grading Policy



Spring 2020
Undergraduate Courses

What is the Alternative Grading Policy?

West Chester University is standing by the promise to put students first and foremost in order to help them succeed. In the midst of a pandemic that is turning all our lives upside down, we are seeking to maintain an educational environment centered on learning by focusing on the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary for students to be successful in their personal and professional lives.

Students have the capability to choose the grading system that works best for them on a course-by-course basis once grades have been posted at the end of the semester.

This temporary policy allows all of us to focus on what is important – *student success* and *learning*.



There are **two** different grading models students can select on a course-by-course basis...



Option 1 *When a student earns a grade of...*

- A , A- , B+ , B , B- , C+ , C , or C- : The grade will be recorded on the transcript and be calculated in the GPA.
- D+ , D , or D- : The grade will be recorded as "Earned Credit" (E) on the transcript and will not be calculated in the GPA.
- F : The grade will be recorded as "No Credit" (N) on the transcript and will not be calculated in the GPA.



Option 2 *When a student earns a grade of...*

- **A** : The grade will be recorded on the transcript and calculated in the GPA.
- **A- , B+ , B , B- , C+ , C , or C-** : The grade will be recorded as "Satisfactory" (S) on the transcript and will not be calculated in the GPA.
- **D+ , D , or D-** : The grade will be recorded as "Earned Credit" (E) on the transcript and will not be calculated in the GPA.
- **F** : The grade will be recorded as "No Credit" (N) on the transcript and will not be calculated in the GPA.



OPTION 1 (Undergraduate Courses)			
Grade Earned for Course	Grade Listed on Transcript	Credit Earned?	Impact GPA?
A	A	Yes	Yes
A-	A-	Yes	Yes
B+	B+	Yes	Yes
B	B	Yes	Yes
B-	B-	Yes	Yes
C+	C+	Yes	Yes
C	C	Yes	Yes
C-	C-	Yes	Yes
D+	E	Yes	No
D	E	Yes	No
D-	E	Yes	No
F	N	No	No

OPTION 2 (Undergraduate Courses)			
Grade Earned for Course	Grade Listed on Transcript	Credit Earned?	Impact GPA?
A	A	Yes	Yes
A-	S	Yes	No
B+	S	Yes	No
B	S	Yes	No
B-	S	Yes	No
C+	S	Yes	No
C	S	Yes	No
C-	S	Yes	No
D+	E	Yes	No
D	E	Yes	No
D-	E	Yes	No
F	N	No	No

Transcript Key:

- E = Earned Credit (Credit Earned, No GPA Impact)
- N = No Credit (No Credit Earned, No GPA Impact)
- S = Satisfactory (Credit Earned, No GPA Impact)



The Registrar's Office understands that you may have many questions regarding the Alternative Grading Policy, it's different options and the impacts on your record.



Please continue to read our **Course FAQs** for more information.

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Electing an Alternative Grading Option

1. Which Spring 2020 courses are eligible?

All Spring courses that end after March 8, 2020 are eligible to have alternative grading option selected.

2. Do I select an alternative grading option course-by-course, or for the full semester?

Selection is on a course-by-course basis.

3. When is the due date to have my alternative grading option(s) selected?

We are asking students to select a grading option within 1 week after the grade is posted for the class. If your class takes place during Session 01 (full 15-weeks of the semester) or Session 72 (second 7-weeks of the semester), grades are due to post on Thursday, May 14th.

4. How do I select an alternative grading option for my course(s)?

The grading option selection tool will be available in myWCU starting Wednesday April 22nd.

5. Can I change my alternative grading option once it is selected and submitted?

Yes. If you change your mind, you can go back into your myWCU and select the alternative option as long as you are within 1 week after the grade has been posted.

6. What will happen 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.

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.

Administrative Grades

1. What happens if I receive a grade of NG (No Grade) or IP (In Progress) for Spring 2020?

Once your final grade is submitted for the course, you will have 1 week after the grade has been posted to select an alternative grading option.

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 are not impacted by the alternative grading policy.

Repeating Courses

1. How does this policy impact the amount of repeats I am permitted?

All courses that are repeated in the Spring semester will not count towards the institutional limit of six (6) undergraduate career repeats, and two (2) graduate career repeats.

2. What happens if I am repeating a course in Spring 2020 that I took previously?

The grade you receive for the Spring course, regardless of what option is 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 am currently 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.

Ordering a Transcript

1. Will this alternative grading policy delay my ability to order a transcript?

To ensure all Spring 2020 grades are posted accurately, there may be a period of time when students who are enrolled in Spring classes will not be able to order an official transcript. Please know that we will be working diligently to restore transcript ordering as quickly as possible.

Eligibility

1. How do these grading options impact my athletic eligibility?

Please connect with Athletics to understand how the alternative grading basis impacts your ability to remain eligible for athletic participation.

2. How do 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 select an alternative grading option where the grade cannot impact your GPA, that course will not be included in your semester GPA.

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

Undergraduate Courses: If your Spring course is serving as a prerequisite for a 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 your Spring course is serving as a prerequisite for a 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 currently an Undergraduate Student on Academic Probation – what are the impacts of these grading options?

WCU students continue 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 will not be processing any academic dismissals for students not meeting the 2.00 good academic standing cumulative GPA minimum.

- Students who dip below the 2.00 cumulative GPA requirement at the conclusion of the spring semester will be placed on Academic Warning status.
 - Academic warning will not be recorded on a student's official transcript.
 - Students will 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 already on probation during the spring 2020 term will either return to good academic standing if their cumulative GPA reaches a 2.00 at the conclusion of the spring 2020 term; or will be offered 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 conclude the spring semester with no cumulative GPA will be 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 these alternative grading options?

Unfortunately, we cannot provide an answer to this question. This is an unprecedented situation and institutions across the county are implementing 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 being implemented due at other institutions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Degree Completion/Degree Progress

1. How will the alternative grading policy impact the timeline for degree conferrals?

The University is strongly committed to conferring the degrees of all our graduates as quickly as possible.

2. How will these grading options impact my ability to graduate with Honors?

Graduating with honors is awarded based off your final cumulative GPA. If you would like a grade in a course to be included in your GPA, you will need 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) will not impact your GPA.

3. How will these classes appear on my Degree Progress Report?

All courses for which a student earns credit will appear in the DPR and count toward a student's degree. Some degree major, minor, or certificate require a minimum grade in a course to satisfy the degree requirements. Students are encouraged to reach out to their academic department chair to understand how the Satisfactory grade (grades of A through C-) will be used to fulfill requirements with minimum grades.

4. I plan on 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 are implementing similar policies as WCU to help their students succeed. Our recommendation would be 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 different for a semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contacts

1. I can't decide which alternative grading option to select for a course – who can I contact?

If you do not know which option to choose for each course, you can contact your instructor, advisor, or department chair for guidance. Graduate Students can contact their graduate coordinator.

2. I am having technical difficulties in myWCU – who can I contact?

The Office of the Registrar can provide technical support if you are experiencing difficulties. Our recommendation is to email registrar@wcupa.edu with a description of what is occurring or provide a screen shot so we can assist you quicker.