



Office of the Registrar

Date: December 18, 2020

To: All Students

From: David Primak, Registrar

Re: CUNY's Flexible Grading Policy for Fall 2020

As we reach the final stretch of the term, it is important to note that CUNY has approved a flexible grading policy for the Fall 2020 semester. This memo will address some of the more common questions and help you decide if applying for the policy is a good option for you. Important: there are some classes are excluded from the Fall 2020 Flexible Grading Policy.

What is the flexible grading policy?

The flexible grading policy applies to *all students* (undergraduate and non-degree). Under the flexible grading policy, after final grades are posted by faculty, you can choose to convert the traditional letter grade you earned in **most** classes (any grade from B+ to F), into a grade of Credit ("CR") or No Credit ("NC"). When you elect this option, your letter grades of B+ to D- will convert to "CR" while your letter grades of F will convert to "NC." Unlike traditional letter grades, which affect your grade point average ("GPA"), grades of CR or NC will not factor into your GPA.

Please click [here](#) for CUNYfirst instructions on how to opt-in.

What classes are EXCLUDED from the Fall 2020 flexible grading policy?

Click [here](#) to view the list of classes excluded from the Fall 2020 flexible grading policy

Do I have to use the flexible grading policy?

No. It is important you understand that using the flexible grading policy is not mandatory. You can select this **option** for any eligible course. You can also choose to keep whatever traditional letter grades you earn.

What should you do right now?

It is highly recommended that you **communicate with your Success Coach/Academic Advisor** prior to choosing the CR/NC option. You can opt into the flexible grading policy as of **Thursday, December 24, 2020**, after your final grades post to CUNYfirst. The University has established the deadline of **Tuesday, January 12, 2021** for declaring your CR/NC option under the Fall 2020 flexible grading policy.

What is the process for declaring a CR/NC grade?

The University has created a process in CUNYfirst that will allow you to use a drop-down menu to select an eligible course and the original grade submitted by your professor. Once you have made your selection(s), submit your request to have the letter grade converted to a CR/NC grade. Please remember this submission **is final**. Students will not be able to make changes to their requests, once submitted. Be sure to work with your Success Coach/Academic Advisor to ensure that you have made the best decision for you.

The University has created a “FAQs” document regarding the Flexible Grading Policy that you can access by clicking [here](#).

What do you need to consider when making this decision?

To assist you with this decision reach out to your **Success Coach/Academic Advisor** and the **Financial Aid Office** to ask questions about how this may affect your degree plan or your financial aid awards. Keep in mind that while all CUNY colleges received instructions to accept your credit for transfer to *any other* CUNY institution; we cannot guarantee that all colleges and universities, graduate programs, scholarships, and other third parties will accept the grade of “CR” for credit. Click [here](#), for CR/NC Financial Aid “FAQs”.

When should you consider NOT declaring a CR/NC grade option?

If any of the following scenarios or a combination of these exist, **speak with your Success Coach/Academic Advisor** and strongly consider **not** declaring the option:

1. **Graduating students with GPA below 2.0:** If your major GPA and/or cumulative GPA is currently below a 2.0 and you are graduating this Spring, this may not be a good option for you. This is because earning a high passing letter grade may allow you to raise your GPA over 2.0. If you opt for a “CR” grade, your GPA may stay the same or not be sufficiently raised to 2.0. You will not be able to graduate or receive a degree from the College with a GPA below 2.0.
2. **Veteran Students Using the GI Bill:** The University Director of Veterans Services, Lisa Beatha, has notified the colleges that veterans who choose this option may owe a debt to the VA. Contact the campus Veterans Certifying Official **prior** to declaring the CR/NC option. At Hostos, our certifying official is Cruz Esquilin who can be reached at, cesquilin@hostos.cuny.edu.

If in doubt, it is best to speak with your **Success Coach/Academic Advisor**. You can also email any additional questions to enrollmentservices@hostos.cuny.edu. We will do our best to help provide you with clear answers.

Stay focused on your studies! We are here to help guide you through the successful completion of this semester.