

FAQ: GWSB Graduate Student Credit/No Credit Policy for Spring 2020

How does Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) work?

Credit/No Credit is a grade mode for graduate-level courses. The most common grade mode is letter grade, which assigns a letter grade of a certain percentage of points earned. In the CR/NC grade mode, earning enough points to pass a course would receive a grade of "Credit" (CR). Not earning enough points to pass a course would receive a grade of "No Credit" (NC).

Students who would like to request for one or more courses to change grade mode to CR/NC may do so for the Spring 2020 semester only. Once requested the grade mode cannot be changed back to a letter grade.

Note: courses that ended prior to March 16th are not eligible for grade mode change.

How does CR/NC impact my Grade Point Average (GPA)?

A course taken for CR/NC does not impact your GPA, no matter your final grade. Whether your grade in a course is CR or NC, your GPA will not change. Only courses taken for a letter grade will impact your GPA.

How does CR/NC impact my credit earned?

The credits for courses taken CR/NC will still apply toward the credit requirements of your degree or certificate. If you take a 3-credit course and earn a grade of CR, those three credits will apply toward your degree requirements. If you receive a grade of NC, you will not receive credit for that course and have to repeat it (or another course if allowed) to earn credit and complete your program's requirements.

How do I request to switch my course(s) to CR/NC?

Students will complete the [Grade Mode Change Form](#). Once requested the grade mode cannot be changed back to a letter grade.

Note: courses that ended prior to March 16th are not eligible for grade mode change.

I have already completed a module 1 course and/or a course that ended prior to March 16th. Can I request to switch those courses to CR/NC?

No - courses whose final day of classes was prior to March 16th are not eligible to switch to CR/NC.

I am a GWSB student but am taking courses in another school. How do I request to switch these courses to CR/NC?

GWSB students will submit their request to update grade mode to their GWSB academic advisor, even if the course in question is within another school. Please follow the process described in the question above.

How does the CR/NC course appear on my transcript?

Courses taken as CR/NC will appear on your transcript. Your grade for the course will be designated with a CR or NC depending on the grade you earn.

If I switch any courses to CR/NC but change my mind because I am doing well in the class, can I switch the course back to letter grade to enhance my GPA?

No. Once you request that a course is updated to the CR/NC grade mode, it cannot be switched back.

I am graduating in May 2020. If I take any of my final courses CR/NC, will I still complete the degree requirement and graduate?

As long as you receive a “CR” in these courses, they will fulfill your degree requirements.

Which courses can I take CR/NC?

During the Spring 2020 semester only, all students may request to switch any courses to the CR/NC grade mode.

Do I have to take all of my courses CR/NC or can I select specific courses?

During the Spring 2020 semester only, students may choose any or all of their courses to be switched to the CR/NC grade mode. If you choose to switch, you do not have to switch all of your courses.

If I switch to CR/NC for any course, do I still have to attend the virtual classes for the rest of the semester?

Yes, students that switch their course grade mode from letter grade to CR/NC, are still expected to participate in their class.

If I switch to CR/NC for any course, do I have to complete my assignments?

Yes, students that switch courses to CR/NC, are still expected to complete the assignments for their class.

How does CR/NC impact my scholarship?

Switching to CR/NC will not impact your merit-based aid offered by GWSB. This is the award you would have received with your offer of admission to your program. Switching to CR/NC will also not impact federal loans.

However, this may not be the case with other forms of tuition support, including other scholarships/grants/fellowships, private loans, and tuition support from your employer. You should contact the sponsor of that funding directly to determine if switching to CR/NC will affect current and/or future eligibility.

I am on academic probation. Will taking a course CR/NC impact my ability to return to good academic standing?

Because courses taken for CR/NC do not impact your GPA, any course taken CR/NC will neither help nor hurt your academic standing. If you are currently on academic probation or at risk of moving into academic probation, we strongly recommend meeting with your advisor to discuss switching to CR/NC.

Could getting a grade of NC on a course result in my being put on academic probation?

No. Because CR/NC does not impact your GPA, you cannot move into academic probation for getting a grade of NC on a course.

I am an international student. Will taking any courses CR/NC impact my visa status?

No, as long as an international student maintains full-time credit (unless approved for a Reduced Course Load), taking a course as CR/NC does not have an impact. Please reach out directly to [ISO](#) for any questions regarding your visa status.

Will potential employers or graduate school admissions offices question the CR/NC courses on my transcript?

Possibly - students will need to consider all factors when making the decision to change to CR/NC.

I plan on sitting for the CPA Exam, can I take a course as CR/NC?

If you plan on taking the CPA Exam after graduating, it is your responsibility to reach out to the state board where you plan to sit for the exam to see if they will accept CR/NC credit. It varies from state to state as to whether they accept CR/NC credit for CPA exam eligibility.

I am currently in or considering the 4+1 program. Can I switch any courses to CR/NC?

Yes - all courses are eligible - though students may be required to pass a proficiency exam for those programs with equivalent courses, foundation courses, and minimum course grade requirements for admissions. Students should check with the graduate academic advisor for the 4+1 program that they are currently enrolled in or considering.

When do I have to make a decision to switch by?

Students must request the grade mode change no later than April 27th.

Do I need to speak with my faculty member prior to making a decision?

No - faculty permission is not required for the Spring 2020 semester.

What should I consider when making the decision to switch from letter grade to CR/NC?

Students should check with their academic advisors, faculty directors, career counselors, and professional associations to make sure that they are receiving grades in courses that are required for veterans' benefits, specialized scholarships, professional certifications (such as the CPA exam), employer reimbursement, career aspirations, etc.