Undergraduate Students FAQ for Spring 2020 Grading

1) **Does this policy refer to online classes only?**
   No, it applies to both online and face-to-face classes.

2) **Why is it better to receive an NC than an F?**
   An NC (“no credit”) will not affect your GPA or repeat total.

3) **Why wouldn’t I want all my grades converted to CR?**
   There are many reasons why students would want to maintain letter grades, including (but not limited to): financial aid eligibility or scholarships may be jeopardized by lack of letter grades; many licenses, certifications and credentials require letter grades in applicable courses; graduate or professional programs require grades in prerequisite or major courses for admission; veterans must receive letter grades; student athletes need at least 6 graded units to retain eligibility; international students may need letter grades to preserve immigration status; students on academic probation may need letter grades to raise their GPA. Additionally, a CR will not impact GPA, and a class in which you receive a CR will not count towards your term, campus, or overall GPA, regardless of whether the original letter grade would move your GPA up or down.

4) **Why would I want to change a D to an NC if I technically “passed” the class?**
   Some courses require a C- or better in a pre-requisite course in order to proceed to the post-requisite course. Other courses require a C- or better to receive credit at all. If you’re in one of those courses, you’ll have to retake it anyway, and you may want to request to have your D turned to an NC to avoid any impact to your GPA.

5) **Why wouldn’t you just change all D grades to NC then?**
   In some courses, a D is a passing grade. If we automatically converted all D grades to NC, then all students who earned a D in a class where a D is a passing grade would not receive credit and would need to repeat the class.

6) **Can my D grade be changed to a CR?**
   No. According to the Cal Maritime Grading System, a credit grade equates to a grade of “C” or higher. (A “C” is any form of a C, including a C-)

7) **Why would I want to change a C or B or A to a CR if I definitely passed the class?**
   That’s a personal choice. If you’re someone who has a 4.0 GPA and you get a B in a class this semester, you may want to eliminate it from your transcript to keep your perfect GPA, and a CR will not impact your GPA at all. (On the other hand, a few Bs aren’t really going to impact your overall GPA that much, so you might not want to bother changing anything.)

8) **Why is it recommended that I talk to University Advisor to discuss my request to change any letter grade to a CR/NC?**
   There may be a reason why you need a letter grade. [See FAQ 3.] Talking to an advisor will allow you to confirm that you won’t be negatively affected by eliminating your letter grades. (To contact the University Advisors send an email to advisor@csum.edu.)

9) **How do I request the letter grade change to CR for a course?**
You will be receiving instructions from the Registrar’s office regarding the process to change the letter grade to CR/NC.

10) **If I request to change my letter grades to CR, can I change my mind later?**

No, requests to change letter grades to CR are final. (This is why it is so important that you talk to a University Advisor beforehand to confirm that there are no negative repercussions. See FAQ 3.)

11) **What if I received an F or a D in a class and I think I actually deserved a better grade based on the work I did?**

If you wish to dispute a grade you received this semester, you would still go through the normal appeal process.

Student-Initiated Grade Change Policy:
https://www.csum.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=ad3e11ae-79c4-441a-867e-607e058940a1&groupId=3965808

12) **What happens if I was on Academic Probation and I receive CR/NC grades?**

No student will be academically disqualified in the Spring 2020 semester unless it is the decision made due to academic integrity violations. The students may be continued on academic probation if they do not meet their academic standing requirements.

13) **I am a Veteran and I need graded units, so I shouldn’t request to have any of my letter grades turned to CR?**

Not necessarily, at least not during this semester.

According to Marshall Thomas (Director, Active Duty and Veterans Affairs at California State University, Office of the Chancellor) regarding veteran students:

“A CR grade is no problem, as it counts towards degree progress. An NC grade does not count towards progress, nor does it negatively impact a student’s GPA, which makes it non-punitive (and therefore a problem). The VA’s policy is not to pay for courses completed with an NC grade, which can lead to a student owing a lot of money back to the VA if one receives an NC.

This may sound like confusing language, but the VA, while not changing its non-punitive grade policy, has issued the following statement: “Although VA does not typically make payments for classes resulting in non-punitive grades, if COVID 19 is reported as mitigating circumstances for the student’s receipt of a non-punitive grade (i.e., Fail in a Pass/Fail class) VA will pay for the class.” This resolves the concern for GI Bill students during the COVID 19 period.” (Obtained from the system-wide campus senate chairs email list.)

14) **I received an RP as a grade in one or more of my courses. What does this mean, and can I request to turn it to a letter grade or CR?**

This is not your final grade. The RP (“Report in Progress”) symbol is used in connection with courses that extend beyond one academic term; it indicates that work is in progress, but the assignment of a final grade is contingent upon the completion of additional work. Most courses that did not switch to alternate modalities on March 19, 2020 will require additional face-to-face instruction; the grade rosters will not be opened, and no grades will be posted for all the face-to-face classes until the course is completed. Once your instructor in that course assigns your final letter grade, you will have four weeks to request to change it to CR/NC.

15) **How will CR/NC grades affect my standing on the Dean’s List and President’s List for Spring 2020?**
Normally, our standards for the Dean’s and President’s List include a minimum of 12 graded units \textit{excluding} CR grades. For Spring 2020 you need to take at least 9 graded units to qualify. All other existing standards still apply.

16) \textit{Does an NC grade in an STCW class allow me to continue with a post-requisite course?}  
As per the Academic Course Catalog, courses that are marked as an STCW course must receive a C- or CR grade to pass. Note, a D grade in an STCW course may still allow you to continue with a post-requisite course, but you must repeat the class to pass with C- or better, or a CR grade in order to meet USCG Program and Baccalaureate Degree requirements. Even if you opt to convert your D letter grade to an NC in an STCW class, you will still have to repeat the class to meet STCW requirements and an NC grade will not allow you to continue with a post requisite course.

17) \textit{If I choose to earn a CR instead of a letter grade (A, B or C) will it count as fulfilling a prerequisite course?}  
For the Spring 2020 semester, earning a CR will fulfill a prerequisite course. An NC grade will not fulfill a prerequisite course.