

**UNM Faculty Senate Resolution
COVID-19 Emergency Measures for Student Academic Success
Student FAQs (March 31, 2020)**

Electing the CR/NC Grading Option

Q. How does a student opt-in to CR/NC?

A. Instructions are here: <http://registrar.unm.edu/forms/grade-mode-change-request.pdf> Does this mean that I can stop participating in class and automatically get a CR?

No – Only if the instructor cannot continue the course for an entire class may the INSTRUCTOR opt to assign a grade of CR/NC for work completed up to March 30. The Resolution states:

9. [The Faculty Senate Resolution] authorizes that if an instructor of record is impacted by COVID-19 and cannot deliver coursework in a remote instructional form, they will be allowed to grade the entire roster of students as CR/NC based upon work performed prior to March 30, 2020 unless the instructor's department decides to assume responsibilities for completing grading on behalf of the instructor of record.

Will the CR grade satisfy all my prerequisite requirements?

Yes, a grade of “CR” will meet a minimum prerequisite grade of “C” and above. The registration system will see the CR as meeting the requirement.

You should research professional programs if the course is prerequisite coursework for admission to undergraduate/graduate programs. Student should inquire how that might impact GPA calculations, or if the program accepts grades of CR.

What is the benefit of changing to CR/NC?

Grades of CR or NC do not affect Grade Point Averages; therefore, students worried about a low grade or a grade lower than their standards can be relieved to have an option due to issues arising from COVID-19. However, we encourage you to see how you are doing in the course before deciding to change your grade mode to CR/NC. You may use UNM resources such as [tutoring](#) or faculty office hours to do well in your courses.

If I earn a grade of D or D- , will it count toward the 15 credit hour requirement for financial aid or scholarship eligibility?

Students with Grades of D or D- earn credit hours. If you chose the CR/NC option, a D- will earn a NC with zero earned hours. Keep in mind that for continued eligibility, the higher of the two semester grade point averages and credit hour completion, Fall 2019 or Spring 2020, will be looked at for scholarship eligibility purposes. Please refer to the question about receiving NC for financial aid eligibility.

Would a CR count for my major and General Education requirements?

A CR in a Spring 2020 course will count for major requirements. The CR is always acceptable for General Education requirements.

How will having grades of CR/NC on my transcript be perceived in future graduate applications?

Many Higher Education Institutions in the United States are providing similar grading exceptions for Spring 2020 and might understand why CR/NC grades are on students' transcripts. The UNM Registrar will include the following message on the end of Spring Semester 2020 Transcript summary note:

Exceptions were approved for the use of CR/NC grades on the Spring 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we cannot predict how another university will view your CR.

How will CR/NC grades affect my future courses?

A CR will satisfy any future course prerequisite that requires a grade of C or better. We encourage you to utilize all resources available such as [tutoring](#) and see if you can earn a better letter grade than you predict. You have until the end of the semester to decide whether to change your grade mode.

What if I change my grade mode to CR/NC and then realize that my final grade was an A or B, can I switch back to a letter grade?

You can ask your instructor for permission to change back to a letter grade. It is best to consider all your options before changing to the CR/NC grade mode so that you are sure that you are making the right initial choice.

What if I receive a NC and fall short of financial aid/scholarship requirements for 15 earned credit hours?

For continued Scholarship eligibility, the higher of the two semester grade point averages and credit hour completion, between Fall 2019 or Spring 2020, will be looked at for eligibility purposes.

For Financial Aid eligibility, schools received wide-ranging flexibility from the US Department of Education in the area of academic progress. While we are confident that we will be able to work with students on classes dropped due to the COVID-19 emergency, the process on how this will work at the end of the semester still needs to be determined pending final guidance from the US Department of Education.

Can I still be on the Dean's List or receive Baccalaureate Honors if I have fewer credits with a letter grade?

The Dean of your College is considering ways to evaluate their Dean's List criteria based on the COVID-19 emergency measures. The Baccalaureate Honor requires 60 credit hours, but not all need to be graded hours. Check with your advisor on how CR/NC impacts the Baccalaureate Honor.

Will New Mexico licensure requirements for Education majors allow the CR/NC options this semester?

It is best to ask your program coordinator for guidance as the answer is dependent upon individual licensure programs. Licensing requirements that require passing a course, can consider a CR as a C or better.

Will graduate students receive a CR if a C or better is earned?

Please consult your graduate advisor about this option. Some graduate professional programs may not have the CR/NC option due to accreditation standards and students are advised to contact their departments in advance to determine if the credit/no credit option is available for their program. Additionally, Masters students planning on continuing to a PhD. program need to consider how another institution views a CR, which we define as C or better, as many campuses view a B- or higher as a passing grade.

If I am repeating a course for a grade replacement may I use the grade of "CR" to replace the lower grade?

Consider keeping the letter grade mode rather than change to the CR/NC mode. A student might earn a letter grade of A or B, but the CR is equivalent to a C or higher and cannot improve your grade point average.

How will this impact my probation status if I choose the CR/NC option?

The Dean of your College is considering ways to evaluate probation criteria based on the COVID-19 emergency measures.

What is the deadline to change grade mode?

There is a firm deadline of May 21, 4:00 p.m. MT. We encourage you to make the change by May 8 and certainly before a letter grade is issued during finals week. The May 21 absolute deadline allows for any delays in posting assignments, projects or exams. Faculty require time to submit their approval to change the grade mode, so you please contact your instructors well before May 21.

Are fees going to be waived if I change the grade mode?

Yes. The Registrar is waiving the fees.

I want to change all my classes to a CR. May I send the request to all my instructors in one email?

No, you must email each instructor separately so that each approval may be recorded by the Registrar separately.

Would a grade of “I” be better than a CR?

Students will need to consider whether it will delay their graduation. Incompletes are an option when students only have an exam, paper, or assignment left to complete. Making up too much coursework can be burdensome in a subsequent semester. Students should not re-register for courses when receiving a grade of “I”. The resolution states:

4. [Faculty are] *committed to using incompletes as a last resort and only under extreme circumstances, given the undue burden that incompletes will place on both faculty and students in these uncertain times.*

Other areas of concern

Will students be able to receive a CR or a grade based on work done so far if they are severely impacted by COVID-19?

This question is best addressed between you and your faculty in each course. LoboRespect may be of service to students in situations where contacting multiple faculty is difficult.

What should students do if they are having a hard time communicating their academic concerns, as impacted by COVID-19, with an instructor?

Students should try first to communicate directly with their instructors about their concerns. They can seek subsequent support from advisors and from staff in UNM's many resource centers and they can reach out directly to Rodney Bowe, Coordinator for the COVID-19 Student-Faculty Facilitation Network at rbowe@unm.edu.

Do I have to pay for Pearson's MyLab, Mastering, or Revel components? My class has moved content to them.

Pearson and their partners have agreed to provide those components for free.

To find the information go to <https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/index.html>. Scroll about 1/4th of the way down the page and, above the graphic, you will see 4 tabs which may be hard to see. Select the “Online Content” tab. On this page, students will find information on both the free access to MyLabs etc. and free access to eTextbooks.

I am having trouble accessing my eTextbook. Will I have to buy the book again?

Pearson and their partners are providing free access to their eTextbooks. Students who have issues accessing their texts should contact their instructors immediately to let them know. Instructors should contact Peg Lewis at the Bookstore and/or help@redshelf.com.