SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & ENGINEERING SPRING 2020 GRADING OPTIONS AND STEPS

Option 1 - Letter Grade
Strongly Recommended!

By default, most UMKC courses are graded on a standard letter grade scale ('A' through 'F'). If you are counting on and working toward a letter grade, don't give up, this is the best option!

Since this is the typical standard grading structure, there is no action you have to take - it's already set up for you.

Option 2 – Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option for Spring 2020 courses ending after March 16

All undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in courses (including online and self-paced) in Spring 2020 will be able to choose the CR/NC grade option for all or selected courses that have an A-F grade option. Courses not selected for the CR/NC option will retain the A-F grade earned. (NOTE: Classes that ended prior to March 16, 2020 are not eligible to be changed to CR/NC grading.)

By selecting this option, either a 'CR' or 'NC' grade, in place of the A-F grade you earn in the course, will be recorded on your transcript. Here's what those mean:

**CR** - you met the standards for successful completion and earned the credit. GPA is unaffected. **You must earn a C- or better in the course for the semester.**

**NC** - you did not meet the standards for successful completion and did not earn the credit. GPA is unaffected. **You receive a grade of D+ or below in the course for the semester.**

The course instructor does not know whether you have chosen the Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option at the time of entering your grade in Pathway.

**What is the deadline to elect the Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option for the Spring 2020 term?**

Students will be able to select the CR/NC option from Monday May 18, 2020 at 8 a.m. through Friday June 5, 2020 at 5 p.m. (CDT).

Option 3 - Withdrawal
We have all needed to adjust to a modified learning environment! We want to give ample opportunity for you to adjust as a learner. Also, due to significant changes in course instruction, it is anticipated that some feedback about your performance (grades on assignments or exams) may be delayed.

By selecting this option, a “W” for each course requested will be recorded on your transcript. This option should be considered if you believe that you will likely earn an “F” grade for the course. You may wish to discuss this option with your Instructor and/or your Advisor. Recorded “W”s do not impact your GPA calculations.

What is the deadline to elect the Course Withdrawal Option for the Spring 2020 term?

We have extended the deadlines so you can take advantage of this option. Late withdrawals for undergraduate students have been extended through May 8, 2020. Graduate students deadline for selecting to withdraw from a course stays at May 8, 2020.

How do you decide which option is best for you?

STEP 1 - Understand the potential consequences by talking with your advisor

First, you must understand the potential consequences. It may be tempting to Withdraw from courses or switch to the Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) option out of fear, stress, or confusion but doing so is risky.

For example, there can be very real and negative consequences associated with the CR and NC grades--that’s why most classes don’t use this grading structure. There are a variety of situations where a letter grade is required for accreditation, licensure, clinical work, to be removed from probation, to move to the next level in a course sequence, etc.

- Not receiving a traditional grade in a course could impact the ability to transfer coursework to another institution in the future or could impact the ability to demonstrate adequate competence for future employment, licensure, or graduate education.
- Credit/No-Credit grading might prevent prerequisite criteria from being met on future courses that require a specific grade to take the next level course.
- Credit/No-Credit grading is based on a calculated grade and does not align with expectations that graduate students maintain higher GPA (e.g., 80% or more of coursework at a B- or better; some programs have more stringent academic criteria).
- Minimum GPAs are needed to evaluate satisfactory academic progress for financial aid and for students on academic probation.
- Potential unknown impact on scholarships (particularly external scholarships) that require a minimum GPA be maintained.

**Aid Eligibility.** Are you a recipient of Pell grants, loans, or scholarships? Your eligibility for these forms of financial aid can change with CR/NC grades or course withdrawals. While credit can still be counted towards your degree in some cases with CR grades, the financial aid office will be required to see what the grade would have been if you had received a letter grade during the grading conversion in Pathway (from a letter grade to the CR/NC option). This could have a negative impact on Satisfactory Academic Progress.

**Program Requirements.** Some programs and majors are not compatible with CR/NC grades and absolutely require a traditional letter grade.

**Graduation GPA.** How is your GPA? Are you just a little shy of the GPA requirement for graduation? While CR/NC grades do not hurt your GPA, they do not help it either. If you were banking on a GPA bump, that won’t happen with CR/NC grading.

**Prerequisites.** Many courses have prerequisites that require a minimum letter grade. CR/NC grades are not letter grades. We'll do all we can to make this work, but registration for some future classes will likely be more difficult because of this. In addition, some programs have matriculation requirements (classes that must be completed before being fully accepted in the program) - CR/NC grades may not satisfy those requirements.

**Course Transferability.** We hope and want you stay at UMKC, but if you plan to transfer your coursework to another institution, CR/NC grades may only be accepted as elective credit or may not be accepted at all.

**Graduate or Professional School.** Do you have plans for grad school? CR/NC grades may not be accepted, or may make you less competitive! While we'd like to think that schools around the state, nation, and world will be lenient for Spring 2020, no one can guarantee it. Also, if you have been conditionally accepted into a graduate program contingent on your completing a specific course with a minimum letter grade in order to be fully admitted into the graduate program, the CR/NC option may not work for you.

**International Students.** Are you sponsored by your home government? If so, you are **not advised** to change courses to CR/NC. However, you can consult with ISAO if you think your academic situation requires a change to CR/NC. As a general reminder, students holding F-1 or J-1 visas should be cautious about withdrawing from coursework. If withdrawing from a course would bring you below your minimum
enrollment requirements, you would fall out of status and face possible termination of your immigration status. Please talk with an immigration advisor at ISAO if you are not sure whether one of these changes might affect your F-1 or J-1 visa status.

**Student Athletes.** Per NCAA requirements, all student-athletes need to maintain a set cumulative GPA to be athletically eligible. Please note that the NCAA is allowing student-athletes to receive CR/NC for spring 2020 classes; the NCAA follows the guidelines of each member institution. In reviewing a student-athletes cumulative GPA to determine athletic eligibility for fall 2020 either the cumulative GPA after fall 2019 or summer 2020 will be used. Please note this is subject to change as NCAA legislation/policy continues to evolve. Please consult with the Athletic Department on all matters pertaining to NCAA eligibility. In addition to campus regulations, all student-athletes need permission of their Athletic Academic Advisor and the Deputy AD/SWA to change classes to CR/NC.

**STEP 2 - Communicate with UMKC faculty and staff – we are here to help!**

Let's be honest, this can be a tricky decision to make with very real consequences and each student’s situation is potentially unique. But we do have some suggestions to help you make the most informed decision possible:

**Communicate with your instructors!**
If you don't already know, find out how you are doing in your classes. You may be doing better than you think!

**Communicate with a Financial Aid counselor!**
Making a change to your grade mode can change financial aid and scholarship eligibility. Make sure you understand what ramifications there could be for making a change. More information is available on the [financial aid website](#).

**Communicate with your Academic Advisor!**
Some programs simply cannot be completed without traditional letter grades. It is important to know how this could impact your ability to complete your program at UMKC.

This is ultimately your choice, but please be careful and thorough in your decision-making process. Take the opportunity to reach out to the faculty and staff at UMKC. We’re here to help and want you to have a successful spring semester and to have success as you continue pursuing your education!

**STEP 3 – Keep Up on deadlines for assignments in your courses and for electing options for grading reviewed above.**
Daily: Course Assignment and Exam Due Dates: Continuing to make progress toward the completion of your degree by focusing your efforts to successfully progress in each of your classes, even in this challenging time, is your best approach! Instructors are communicating with you about assignments and exams through Canvas. Be sure to be logging into Canvas daily so that you can do your best to meet these deadlines and complete your best work possible!

Friday, May 8, 2020: Course Withdrawal deadline (submitted online in Pathway – Drop Course)

Monday, May 18, 2020 thru Friday, June 5, 2020: Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option period