

POLICY STATEMENT APPROVEDMinutes 2/9/73
AS(PEP)73-15POLICY ON NON-TRADITIONAL GRADING

1. Grading Symbols: CSULB adopted the grades of "CR" and "NC" to supplement A, B, C, D, F, I and W. The grade of CR (credit) shall be equivalent to the traditional grades of A, B or C; and the grade of NC (no credit) shall be equivalent to the traditional grades of D or F. Grades of CR and NC will not count toward a student's grade-point average, but they will enter into calculations determining a student's scholastic standing, according to Trustees' regulations.
2. Student Options: Subject to limitations imposed by University or Department policies, a student may be graded CR/NC in any course or courses of his or her choice. His or her decision must be made by the mid-point of the semester or session in which he or she is enrolled, after which the decision is irreversible.
3. University Limitations: No student may elect more than 24 units in residence, more than 12 units of upper-division courses (that is, courses numbered 300 through 499), or more than 8 units per semester, or 4 units per summer on a CR/NC basis. These numerical limitations shall specifically not include courses for which credit is earned by examination, courses taken at another institution, or courses at CSULB uniformly given to all students on a CR/NC basis.
4. Department Limitations: Subject to University and School policy, a department or inter-departmental program may establish CR/NC limitations as follows:
 - a. Certain courses in a department may be declared available only on an ABCDF basis, or only on a CR/NC basis, to all students enrolled, regardless of major.
 - b. Any or all courses required for a major may be declared unavailable on a CR/NC basis to students majoring in that specific discipline (except for courses uniformly given on a CR/NC basis). For the purposes of this provision, the major shall be construed to include any course specifically listed as part of the major requirements for graduation in the undergraduate Bulletin.

In the absence of such policies, students may elect any or all courses in a given department on a CR/NC basis.
5. Department Obligations: A department or inter-departmental program is obligated to inform students in its classes of policies controlling CR/NC grading, to provide counseling on the advantages and disadvantages of CR/NC grading, and to aid the Records Office in ensuring that students properly enrolled for CR/NC grading do in fact receive grades of CR or NC.
6. Experimentation: If financial support can be obtained, the University shall undertake a 2 to 4 year experiment testing various theories about CR/NC grading. Specific terms of this experiment shall include but are not limited to:
 - a. Allowing some students greater options for electing CR/NC grading.
 - b. Concealing from some instructors which students in their classes have elected CR/NC grading.
 - c. Collecting from students enrolled for CR/NC grading such data as age, class, major, prior and present experience with non-traditional grading, and reasons for electing CR/NC grading.
 - d. Correlating this data with ABCDF grades assigned by instructors who were unaware of which students in their classes had elected CR/NC grading.

POLICY ON NON-TRADITIONAL GRADING (Continued)IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES:

1. Registration: Before the deadline in any semester or session, a student must file with the Records Office a card on which he has:
 - a. Listed any course(s) in which he elects CR/NC grading.
 - b. Obtained approval from the department offering the course, and from his major department or inter-departmental program.
 - c. Certified his awareness that CR/NC grading may not be acceptable to certain prospective employers, graduate schools, or undergraduate programs; that CSULB will not convert CR/NC grades into ABCDF equivalents; and that units graded NC must be balanced by an equal number of units graded A, or twice as many units graded B, to avoid academic probation.
 - d. Supplied other confidential information, as requested by the University.
2. Recording of Final Grades: Final grade sheets from the Registrar will be issued with two columns for entering final grades and coded indications of which students have elected CR/NC grading. Instructors may enter only ABCDF grades in the appropriate column if they wish. It shall be the responsibility of the Records Office to see that grades of CR or NC are entered in the other column, for transcript purposes, whether these entries are made by the instructor, the department, or the Records Office itself.
3. Counseling: CSULB shall attempt to ensure that students receive adequate counseling with respect to non-traditional grading, by the following means:
 - a. By publicizing the advantages and disadvantages of CR/NC grading.
 - b. By requiring departmental approval of students' election of CR/NC grading.
 - c. By offering counseling (through academic departments and the Counseling Center) for those students who request it.
 - d. By requiring counseling as a condition of academic probation.
 - e. By holding departments responsible for publicizing their policies on CR/NC grading.
 - f. By publishing in the Schedule of Classes information relating to availability of CR/NC grading in specific classes.

General Bulletin copy will read as follows:

1. GRADES.

The student's work in each course is recorded in the Records Office on one of nine grades. Five indicate successful completion of the course and the work assigned in it; A, excellent; B, above average; C, average; D, below average; CR, credit. If a student does not successfully complete a course, he may be assigned one of the following grades, depending on circumstances explained below: F, failing; NC, no credit; I, incomplete; W, withdrawal. Units assigned the grade of CR, NC, I, or W will not be used in computing grade point average for graduation honors or other purposes.

2. CREDIT-NO CREDIT GRADING.

Effective 1972, the State University and College System was authorized to use the grades of CR and NC, and to eliminate the grades of F and N. CR is equivalent to A, B, or C on the traditional scale, and NC is equivalent to D or F. Neither grade counts toward a student's grade point average, but the system is so structured that a student must offset any units graded NC with an equal number of units graded A, or twice as many units graded B, to avoid being placed on probation. The

POLICY ON NON-TRADITIONAL GRADING (Continued)

policies governing the availability of CR/NC grading at CSULB are as follows:

CR/NC grading shall be available to any undergraduate student in residence at CSULB in any class or classes he chooses, subject to limitations imposed by University or department policy. The University allows a student to elect no more than 24 units in residence, 12 units in upper-division courses, or 8 units per semester on a CR/NC basis, excluding courses taken at another institution, courses credit for which are earned by examination, or courses at CSULB that are uniformly offered on a CR/NC basis. Subject to School guidelines, departments and interdepartmental programs may regulate the availability of CR/NC grading in courses offered within the department and/or required for degree concentrations controlled by the department.

To receive a grade of CR or NC for a class in which he is enrolled, a student must inform the Registrar of his preference by the mid-point of the semester, at which time he must (1) have obtained approval from the department offering the course and from his major department; (2) attest to his awareness of the irreversibility of his decision and of the fact that CR/NC grading may not be acceptable to certain graduate schools and employers; and (3) supply certain confidential information requested by the University in its attempt to assess and evaluate the CR/NC system.

3. PROBATION AND DISQUALIFICATION.

A student may be placed on academic probation if at any time: (1) his cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 (C); or (2) he fails to earn twice as many Progress Points as units attempted. In calculating Progress Points, A, B, C, D and F count their respective grade points; CR counts 2 points per unit; and NC counts no points per unit. In calculating units attempted, only those units are counted for which a student receives a grade of A, B, C, D, F, CR or NC. Classes in which a student receives a grade of I or W do not enter into these calculations.

A student on probation who, at the end of the next semester, fails to attain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C) on all units attempted and/or fails to earn twice as many Progress Points as units attempted, will be disqualified, unless he successfully petitions the Scholastic Standards Committee for one more semester for which he is registered. The successful petitioner must undertake counseling at regular intervals, relative to his goals and his progress toward them; must refrain from certain activities as agreed on with the Scholastic Standards Committee; and must clear his probation before registering for another semester. If during a second successive semester on probation, the student fails to clear his probation, he shall be disqualified.

Readmission after Disqualification:

A student with lower-division standing who is disqualified because of scholastic deficiency may petition the Scholastic Standards Committee for readmission only upon successful completion of a total of 60 transferable units of work, including the units passed at this University. These units may be taken at any accredited institution of higher education.

A student with upper-division standing who is disqualified because of scholastic deficiency may petition the Scholastic Standards Committee for readmission only after an absence of two semesters during which he shall have demonstrated his ability to do acceptable scholastic work by completing courses in his major or related courses with grades of B or higher in summer session or extension, or in the regular resident program of a comparably accredited institution.

Distributed to Academic Senate 12/8/72 and 1/12/73.

Approved by action of Academic Senate 1/12/73, Item #13.

Approved by President of the University 1/25/73.

