Frequently Asked Questions about John Jay College’s Fall 2020 Flexible Grading Policy

1. Does this policy apply to any semester other than Fall 2020?
   • No. This policy applies only to courses taken during the Fall 2020 semester.

2. What is the purpose of the Fall 2020 Credit/No Credit Grading Policy?
   • This policy was designed to provide students with maximum flexibility during the ongoing pandemic.

3. Does this policy apply to students in all academic programs?
   • Yes, but it does not apply to all courses. The policy applies to all John Jay College students who are enrolled in credit bearing courses for the Fall 2020 semester, including undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree students. The policy does not apply to a select number of courses identified by John Jay. See the list of excluded courses.

4. Which John Jay College courses are excluded from the CR/NC flexible grading policy?
   • The following courses are excluded from John Jay’s Fall 2020 Flexible Grading Policy (CR/NC):

**Undergraduate Studies**
Department of Sciences
- Biology 101
- Biology 102
- Biology 103
- Biology 104
- Chemistry 101
- Chemistry 102
- Chemistry 103

**Graduate Studies**
Department of Psychology
- Psychology 700
- Psychology 715
- Psychology 737
- Psychology 738
- Psychology 745
- Psychology 755
- Psychology 758
- Psychology 769
- Psychology 780
- Psychology 781
5. Will all course grades automatically be converted to a Credit/No-Credit option? When will this conversion happen? If students need to decide, how will they do so?
   - No. Course grades will not automatically convert to Credit/No Credit. The change is optional, at the student’s discretion, and students must take action to opt-in to the policy.
   - Students will have from **December 24, 2020** until **January 12, 2021** to elect the Credit/No Credit option.
   - Students should confer with their academic and financial aid advisors.

6. Can students elect the Credit/No Credit option for individual courses?
   - Yes. Students can opt to take the Credit/No Credit option for none, one, some, or all of their graded classes for Fall 2020 semester, as long as the course is not excluded. (See the list of excluded courses.)

7. Are there circumstances or conditions in which a request would be denied, or a student would be ineligible for this option?
   - No, students have the right to opt-in to receive a Credit/No Credit grade for courses, as long as the course is not excluded. A Credit/No Credit grade can apply to general education courses, electives, major, minor, and prerequisite courses. It’s important to be aware that a grade of Credit/No Credit may not be acceptable to licensing, or other bodies external to CUNY. Students should consult with their program advisors or the external body prior to making the decision to elect Credit/No Credit.

8. Are there cases when a student should not choose the Credit/No Credit option?
   - Yes, there are some cases where it may not benefit a student to select the Credit/No Credit option. A student should carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of electing the Credit/No Credit option, particularly on matters related to graduation, professional licensure requirements, financial aid eligibility, and transfer of credit and/or graduate admissions to non-CUNY institutions.
   - **Graduation:** If an undergraduate student’s major GPA and/or cumulative GPA is below a 2.0, and the student is graduating, and the letter grade will raise the GPA to at least a 2.0, then choosing the Credit/No Credit option would prevent the student from graduating. Similarly, if a graduate student’s cumulative GPA is below a 3.0, and the student is graduating, and the letter grade will raise the GPA to at least a 3.0, then choosing the Credit/No Credit option would prevent the student from graduating.
• **Financial Aid:** There may be cases where a student’s financial aid could be adversely impacted by electing the Credit/No Credit option, including private scholarships, state student aid, and federal student aid. Students should consult with financial aid advisors when possible prior to choosing Credit/No Credit.

• **Professional Licensure, Transfer, and Graduate School Admission:** Some professional licensure organizations, and graduate schools outside of CUNY, may not accept a grade of CR. As such, students are encouraged to contact external scholarship organizations, the transfer admissions offices of non-CUNY institutions, the graduate admissions offices of non-CUNY institutions and any organization external to CUNY that could have an impact on their current or future educational or professional plans. In consultation with program advisors, students should then weigh the potential impact of electing the Credit/No Credit option on their ability to: earn licenses, transfer credit to non-CUNY institutions, and/or gain admission into graduate school outside of CUNY. For example, there are some graduate programs that typically convert a CR grade to a C and an NC grade to an F when evaluating a transcript.

9. **Is the decision to convert course grades to the Credit/No Credit option reversible?**
- No. Once a student chooses to convert course grades to the Credit/No Credit the decision is final.

10. **Will the decision to elect Credit/No Credit impact financial aid?**
- There may be cases where a student’s financial aid could be adversely impacted by electing the Credit/No Credit option, including private scholarships, state student aid, and federal student aid. Students should consult with financial aid advisors when possible prior to choosing Credit/No Credit.

Questions Related to Grades and GPA

11. **How will the Credit/No Credit grades be calculated into the grade point average?**
- Neither the CR nor the NC is included in the calculation of the GPA. The CR grade will allow the student to earn credit (for credit bearing courses) but is not factored into the GPA. If the student elects an NC grade in place of an F then it is not factored into the GPA, but the student will not earn the credit.

12. **Will a grade of CR at one CUNY institution transfer to another CUNY institution?**
• Yes, a course with a grade of CR earned at one CUNY institution will transfer to another CUNY institution. There are no exceptions to this.

13. Will a CR grade in a course be acceptable to register for higher level courses in subsequent semesters if the course taken in the fall was a prerequisite with a minimum grade requirement?
   • Yes. Of course, John Jay College has excluded a select number of courses from this policy. (See the list of excluded courses.) But if a course is not excluded, then a grade of CR in that course is sufficient to satisfy the prerequisite and allow students to register for subsequent courses at John Jay or any other CUNY institution.

14. Does this policy apply to ePermit/Study Abroad courses?
   • Yes. The policy applies to all courses, even taken via ePermit/Study Abroad, in the Fall 2020 semester.

15. Will a Fall 2020 hold or stop prevent a student from selecting the Credit/No Credit option?
   • No. Stops and holds will not have an impact on a student’s ability to select the Credit/No Credit option.

16. Will the CR grade apply towards F-Repeat policy where the F grade was earned?
   • A grade of CR is a passing grade. A CR grade will be treated as any other passing grade. It will not change the original F grade on the students record, but does apply towards the F-Repeat policy and count towards the 16-credit F-Repeat limit (for credit bearing courses).

17. Will the NC grade apply towards F-Repeat policy where the F grade was earned?
   • No. An NC is not a passing grade. It will not replace a previously earned F grade.

18. Will a WU grade convert to an NC grade?
   • No. WU is not an earned grade (it is assigned to students who stop participating in and do not complete the course). Students cannot convert a WU to an “NC” grade.

19. Will a FIN grade convert to an NC grade?
   • No. FIN is not an earned grade (it is assigned to students who do not complete coursework for which they received an INC grade). Students cannot convert a FIN to an “NC” grade.

20. Does this policy apply to a course where a student has already earned any version of the W grades on their record for Fall 2020 semester?
• No. If a student has a version of the W grade (W, WN, WA, WD) on their record for a course for the Fall 2020 semester, this option does not apply to that course.

21. Will this interfere with the number of Pass/Fail/No Credit grades that a student can utilize after the Fall 2020 semester, based on John Jay’s pre-existing policy?

• No. CR and NC grades for Fall 2020 courses will not be included in the total number of non-letter grade courses a student may take under the existing campus policy.

22. Will successfully retaking the course in subsequent semesters replace the NC grade?

• No. If you receive an NC grade, it does not count toward your GPA. If you later repeat the course and earn a letter grade, that letter grade will count toward your GPA, but the NC grade will remain on your transcript.
• In contrast, if you receive an F, it counts toward your GPA. If you later repeat the course and earn a better grade, the new grade counts toward your GPA. In addition, the F is dropped from your transcript and no longer counts toward your GPA.
• Note: there is a 16-credit limitation on repeats, but NC grades do not count toward that limit.

23. Does this policy apply to F grades assigned due to academic sanction for the violation of Academic Integrity Policy?

• No, students found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy are not allowed to opt-in to receive a No Credit grade, as academically sanctioned F grades are not earned grades.

Questions Regarding the Credit/No Credit Opt-in Process

24. When will I be able to opt-in for the Credit/No Credit Option?

• The “opt-in window” is between December 24, 2020 and January 12, 2021.

25. Why am I not able to opt-in in CUNYfirst for certain courses?

• You cannot opt-in until grades are posted. And the courses listed here are excluded from the Fall 2020 Flexible Grading Policy. If your course is not on the list of excluded courses, and your letter grade is already posted, and you still cannot opt-in to Credit/No Credit, please contact registrar@jjay.cuny.edu

26. What will this look like on my transcript?
• The grade glossary, attached to each transcript, will be updated to include a notation denoting that Fall 2020 grades of CR or NC were earned during a major emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

27. If a student’s grade is not submitted or posted in time for them to select the Credit/No Credit option, will the student be allotted more time?

• The Office of the Registrar will be able to assist any student with late grade submissions or any issue with Credit/No Credit policy, on a case-by-case basis.

28. Should a student opt for NC if they earned a D and want to repeat the course?

• No. A passing letter grade (B+ through D-) can convert to ‘CR’ with credit for the class being awarded (for credit bearing courses). Such grades cannot be converted an ‘NC’. A failing grade (F) can convert to ‘NC’, with no credit awarded.

29. I graduated at the end of Summer or I have already graduated. Will I able to use Credit/No Credit option?

• No. The flexible grading CR/NC option is only available for course taken in Fall 2020. And once a degree is conferred and student has graduated, changes to an academic record, including a grade change under any Credit/No Credit option, cannot be made.

30. John Jay College has a standing Pass/Fail policy that is available to students every semester. Does the Fall 2020 Credit/No Credit Grading Policy replace that policy or is this an additional option for students?

• John Jay College’s existing pass/fail option continues to apply in the Fall 2020 semester according to established rules set in the College Bulletin. Students were free to use that option, as long as it was selected before the established deadline on the academic calendar. The Fall 2020 Credit/No Credit Policy only applies, to non-excluded courses, after the grades are posted. If, upon seeing their posted letter grade in CUNYfirst, a student wants to change an earned letter grade to Credit/No Credit, they can then opt-in to elect this option.

31. If I am transferring to CUNY from outside the university and my previous school had a mandatory or voluntary binary grading system (P/F; CR/NC) will my credits still transfer?

• For courses taken in the Fall 2020 semester only, we will honor and transfer in binary grades for all courses that would normally transfer, without negative impact on admission, transfer credit, or degree requirements.
Questions Regarding International Students, Veterans, and Special Programs

32. What are the implications of Credit/No Credit opt-in for International Students?
   • International students should consult campus International Student and Scholar Services before initiating this option.

33. What are the implications of Credit/No Credit opt-in for Veterans Benefits?
   • The VA does not typically pay for classes for which the grade received, such as Credit/No Credit, may not contribute to student progress standards for graduation (what the VA calls “non-punitive grades”). Non-punitive grades have the same effect as taking a class in “audit” status. If COVID-19 is reported by the institution as a mitigating circumstance for the student’s receipt of a non-punitive grade then the VA will pay for the class. Veteran students should consult John Jay College’s Veterans Support Services before initiating this option. More information is available here.

34. Does this policy apply to Non-Degree, College NOW, or Early College Initiative (ECI) programs?
   • Yes. Unless the course is excluded from opt-in, the policy applies to all students taking courses in the Fall 2020 semester regardless of matriculation status.

35. How will this policy affect undergraduate Macaulay Honors, Campus Honors, Adult and Continuing Education, ASAP courses, and other special academic programs?
   • Other than courses excluded from the policy, the policy applies to all courses equally.

For Students Pursuing Licensed Health Professions Programs

36. I am applying to a degree program in a licensed health profession at the end of this semester. How will accepting a grade of CR affect my admission to the program?
   • Admission to many of the licensed health profession programs at CUNY is highly competitive. There are more students interested in these programs than there are clinical placements available, therefore there is a selection process based upon a review of the academic record of each student seeking admission. While no student will be deprived the right to a CR grade in any class at CUNY, overall GPA is not the only indicator in admissions decisions to licensed health profession programs. Students are encouraged to review the admissions criteria, which can be viewed on the program’s webpage, for acceptance to the program. Program directors will review the full transcript of each student and will make their admissions decisions based upon conclusions drawn from the review of those transcripts. Opting for a CR grade instead of a letter grade in a course may impact your ability to meet the expected admission
criteria and acceptance into the program. Students doing poorly in a course may be advised to withdraw from a course, which has been extended to last day of classes, or take a Credit/No Credit grade option, with the exception of courses chosen by campuses to be excluded from opt-in and repeat the course in a subsequent term.

37. I am a student intending to pursue a licensed health profession program. Currently, I’m taking pre-requisite courses in my major. How will accepting a CR grade affect my ability to pursue other programs?

- All students, regardless of their field of study need to consider the impact that their level of proficiency in a Fall 2020 course will have on their success in a future course or in successfully advancing in the program. This consideration is particularly important for students preparing to take licensing examinations in one of the health professions upon graduation. Students doing poorly in a course may be advised to withdraw from a course or take an NC grade and repeat the course in a subsequent term. Students should contact their professor or advisor either prior to the end of the semester or certainly prior to opting for the Credit/No Credit grade.

38. I am a senior applying to graduate programs in a licensed health profession. How will the grades impact my chances of gaining admission to the schools to which I have applied?

- Each graduate program will view these grades as they see fit. We advise you to use the opt-in period to check with the admissions office of each program to which you have applied to make an informed decision.

For Students Pursuing Education Programs

39. I am a student in an Education program that leads to teacher certification. How will accepting a CR grade in my Education courses affect my ability to get certified?

- Candidates who complete a registered program would apply for certification through the approved program pathway. In this pathway, NY State Education Department (OTI) looks for the institutions’ recommendation for certification in the candidates’ TEACH account and does not look at courses on a transcript. Credit/No Credit courses would not be an issue in this case.

40. I am a student taking education courses because I intend to apply for certification through the individual evaluation pathway. (I am not enrolled in a registered program that leads to certification.) How will accepting a CR grade in my Education courses affect my ability to get certified?

- Candidates who complete college courses but are not matriculating in a registered program and would not receive an institution recommendation for certification, may apply for certification through the individual evaluation pathway. In this pathway, candidates must have achieved at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in
any graduate level course in order for the semester hours associated with that course to be credited toward meeting the content core or pedagogical core semester hour requirements for a certificate.

- Students pursuing the individual evaluation pathway who earn at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course may decide to accept the letter grade (and not convert it to CR) so their transcript can be more readily assessed by the NY State Education Department.

41. How do CR grades apply to the general core and content core requirements of NY State Education Department?

- The minimum letter grade requirement does not apply to the general core (liberal arts and science) courses unless they are also counting towards the content core semester hour requirements. Credit/No Credit grades would be acceptable for those courses. In addition, any grade is acceptable, including pass/fail grades, for the 12-semester hour graduate coursework content core for the Professional certificate master’s degree requirement if the college granted degree credit for the course.

42. I am a senior applying to graduate programs in Education. How will the CR grades impact my chances of gaining admission to the NY colleges to which I have applied, given the state’s 3.0 GPA minimum?

- Each graduate program will view these grades as they see fit. We advise you to use the opt-in window to check with the admissions office of each program to which you have applied to make an informed decision. Many colleges and universities throughout the United States are implementing similar grading options for the Fall 2020 semester, so your transcript will most likely not be the only one with a Credit/No Credit or P/F or P/NC grade. CUNY’s Credit/No Credit grades will not impact the students’ GPA.