

Credit/No Credit Option Policy and FAQs

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Credit/No Credit Option Policy

Warren Wilson College has adopted a Credit/No Credit (CR/NCR) option for all Spring 2020 Term 4 and 15-week semester classes. Professors will assign letter grades for all classes, and by default that letter grade will be entered into the transcript. Students will be given a 1 week window after grades are posted to opt for Credit or No Credit rather than the letter grade, and they will be able to select this option for each class independently. With this option, courses assigned a D- or higher will be converted to "Credit". Those courses will count toward total credit hours, gen ed credit, and credit toward courses required for the major, but they will not be calculated into the GPA. If students choose the CR/NCR option, courses assigned a letter grade of F will be indicated as "No Credit" on the transcript. Courses with NCR will be included in attempted credits, but will not count toward total earned credit hours, gen ed credit, or for courses required in the major. They also will not be calculated into the GPA.

FAQs

How can I choose the Credit/No Credit Option?

You will be given a 1-week window after grades are posted to opt for Credit or No Credit rather than the letter grade, and you will be able to select this option for each class independently. In order to make this choice, you will need to access the “Credit/No Credit Form” on the [Registrar’s website](#) beginning May 1.

- Graduating seniors: The deadline to submit the Credit/No Credit Form is 5:00pm EST, Wednesday, May 6th.
- All other students: The deadline to submit a Credit/No Credit Form is 5:00pmEST, Friday, May 15th.

What happens if I don’t choose the Credit/No Credit Option?

The letter grade that you receive in the course will be on your transcript.

Will choosing the Credit/No Credit option affect my Financial Aid?

Possibly. It’s always a good idea to consult the Financial Aid Office about your particular situation. Students still need to complete 67% of their attempted credits (semester and cumulative) to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) for financial aid eligibility and students will still need to make the GPA required (both semester and cumulatively) according to the SAP policy ([found here](#)). A “No credit” choice, in place of an F, does not count toward credits earned. Still, it’s better to choose “no credit” over an F to help your GPA. If you’re concerned that choosing “no credit” in multiple courses will put you under the 67% threshold, you should consider that if you are a student in good standing (you are not currently on academic probation or financial aid warning), then even if you drop below 67% credits earned this semester, you would be on financial aid warning in the fall. Your aid continues for the semester that you are on financial aid warning.

Please note, however, that if you are on Financial Aid (FA) warning for spring 2020 and do not make SAP this semester according to current FA policy standards, you will be placed on FA Probation for fall 2020. If you are placed on FA probation, in order to continue your FA, you must appeal with appropriate documentation that explains why you did not make SAP. You must also develop an academic plan with Academic Support. Your appeal must include specific, detailed reasons and supporting documentation that demonstrates why you did not meet the SAP requirements. If you have questions about what documentation is required and/or needed, please email, call, or text the Financial Aid Office.

finaid@warren-wilson.edu

call or text: 828.771.2082

Do I need to check with my major advisor and/or Integrated Advising Coach before choosing the Credit/No Credit option?

If any of the following apply to you, we STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to be in touch with your Integrated Advising Coach and/or Major Advisor before making the decision to elect the Credit/No Credit option:

- Student-athletes
- Students on Academic Probation
- Students with a cumulative and/or semester GPA of 2.0 or below

If my course was originally Pass/Fail, can I still choose Credit/No Credit?

Yes. Your instructor will submit a P or F, just as instructors are submitting letter grades for other courses. You will not benefit further from changing a P grade to a Credit grade. Both count for credit but do not affect your GPA. However, if you earn an F in a P/F course, you will want to opt for the No Credit. Remember, though, that some P/F courses are intended to set you up for success in the next level course in the area. If, for example, you opt for a No Credit in place of an F in Principles of Chemistry, you will need to successfully complete that course in another semester before moving on to the next course level.

If I earn a D- in a class required for my major and choose the Credit/No Credit Option (thus getting credit), will it count towards my major?

Yes. However, if you earn a grade in the D range (D+ - D-), it is important to understand how this might affect your ability to succeed in higher-level courses in your major. This is particularly important if this course is a pre-requisite to a higher-level course in your major. In this case, we strongly suggest that before taking that higher-level course you discuss what preparation is necessary to succeed in it. You may ask the department chair or your instructor.

If I earn Fs in multiple courses and choose the Credit/No Credit option (thus, not getting credit) for those courses, could I still be academically suspended?

The academic administration and Scholastic Standards committee are adopting an outlook of great leniency this semester. As the Credit/No Credit option won't affect your GPA, it will not lead to academic probation or suspension. The only ways a student could be eligible for academic suspension are as follows: 1) they choose to keep letter grades that lower their GPA, rather than opting for Credit/No Credit; 2) they were already below the GPA for suspension after Fall 2019 and successfully appealed to remain at Warren Wilson for Spring 2020 on academic probation. Even if a student is in this rare category, there will be leniency in the committee's deliberations. Remember, though, that students whose GPAs fall beneath the required levels will still need to consult with the Financial Aid office about their FA status.

Will electing the Credit/No Credit option affect my ability to get into the graduate school of my choice?

Higher education news sources indicate that most graduate and professional schools will recognize “CR” and “P” grades for this semester. Still, if you decide to opt for a grade of “credit” in one or more courses, you might look for ways to include narrative comments on your performance in those courses by, for example, asking a faculty member to address the course specifically in a letter of recommendation to graduate school.

What questions should I consider when trying to decide if I should elect the Credit/No Credit option? *All of these are questions you can discuss with your Integrated Advising Coach, Major Advisor, and/or Financial Aid.*

- Am I a student-athlete? If so, will I still be able to meet the [GPA threshold](#) for eligibility to play?
- Am I on academic probation from a previous semester? If so, will I be able to meet the [GPA threshold](#) to make satisfactory academic progress? Also, see question above about academic suspension.
- Am I on academic warning? If so, will I be able to come off of academic warning?
- Does the letter grade help or hurt my [cumulative GPA](#)?
 - For each course, you may wish to use this simple test to decide if you want to take the lettergrade or CR. If the lettergrade is higher than your current GPA, then it may make sense to take the letter grade to raise your [GPA](#).
- Do I have a history of financial aid warning or financial aid probation? If so, it is important to discuss with your Integrated Advising Coach or Major Advisor and Financial Aid Office how a Credit/No Credit option will affect your financial aid. Also, see question above about Financial Aid.
- Am I considering graduate school or professional schools? If so, see question above about graduate/professional school.