

Frequently asked questions about temporary changes to undergraduate academic policies

April 13, 2020

Here are frequently asked questions about the temporary changes to undergraduate academic policies for Spring 2020. This document replaces the one dated April 6, 2020, and adds a new section, Section D, discussing grading options for ABC/NC classes.

This document has four sections. Be sure to read all of the sections that are important to you:

- **Section A** discusses dropping classes.
- **Section B** discusses academic dismissals.
- **Section C** discusses the new S/CR/NC grading mode that is available for most undergraduate classes that have A-F grading.
- **Section D** discusses grading options for ABC/NC classes.

The questions are numbered to make it easier to refer to a specific question during an e-mail or Zoom-based discussion.

Undergraduate students who have holds on their record and are unable to drop a class or change grading modes should proceed as follows:

- International students should contact the Center for Global Engagement.
- Student athletes should contact the Thornton Center.
- All other students should e-mail onestop@utk.edu from their UTK e-mail account. Include the course number (such as ENGL 102) and five-digit CRN in your message, and explain the change that you are requesting.

A. Dropping classes

A1. What is the new late drop (drop with a W) deadline for Spring 2020?

April 22 will be the last day to drop a class with a W for Spring 2020.

A2. When will I be able to use my fifth and sixth drops?

Your additional drops will become available on April 13. April 22 will be the last day to drop a class with a W for Spring 2020; this applies to both full-semester and second-session classes. Students should always consult with their academic advisor before dropping classes. You should also reach out to One Stop to ensure that dropping a class will not negatively affect your financial aid. For the Spring 2020 term, dropping classes will not impact Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), Tennessee HOPE scholarship status, or institutional scholarships such as Volunteer, Pledge and Flagship, as long as you do not completely withdraw from the university.

A3. Should I consult with my advisor before dropping a class this late in the semester?

Students should always consult with their academic advisor before dropping classes. Because April 22 is the last day to drop a class with a W for Spring 2020, be sure to consult with your advisor well in advance of this date.

A4. Should I consult with One Stop before dropping a class?

If you are considering dropping a class that will change your enrollment status, such as dropping from full-time to below 12 credit hours, it is important to speak with a One Stop counselor. Changing your enrollment status could affect your ability to continue to receive financial aid for future semesters.

A5. Will the classes that I drop in mid-April have any special notation on my transcript?

No. The classes that students drop in mid-April will be entered on the transcript with a W, just like classes that students dropped earlier in the semester.

B. Academic dismissals**B1. I am on academic probation this semester and I'm worried that my grades won't be high enough to avoid being dismissed. What can I do?**

Academic dismissals will be suspended for Spring 2020 and Summer 2020. Any student on academic probation in Spring 2020 will be allowed to enroll in Summer 2020 and Fall 2020. If a student currently on academic probation has not returned to good standing by Fall 2020, that student will be on academic probation in Fall 2020.

C. Satisfactory / credit / no-credit (S/CR/NC) grading**C1. How does S/CR/NC grading work?**

A student who selects S/CR/NC grading for a class will receive one of three grades at the end of the semester. None of the three grades will affect a student's UTK GPA.

- The grade of satisfactory (S) will apply if a student completes the class with any grade of C or higher.
- The grade of credit (CR) will apply if a student completes the class with a grade of C-minus, D-plus, D, or D-minus.
- The grade of no-credit (NC) will apply if a student completes the class with the grade of F.

C2. If I choose S/CR/NC grading, does my current grade in the class determine whether I earn S, CR, or NC?

No. Students must complete all remaining assignments, quizzes, and exams. The A-F grade that you would have earned at the end of the semester will determine whether you earn S, CR, or NC.

C3. Will all my classes automatically change to S/CR/NC grading?

No. For most undergraduate classes offered during Spring 2020, students can choose, on a class-by-class basis, whether to keep regular A-F grading or to use S/CR/NC grading.

C4. If I choose S/CR/NC grading in one class, do I have to make the same choice for all my classes?

No. For most undergraduate classes offered during Spring 2020, students can choose, on a class-by-class basis, whether to keep regular A-F grading or to use S/CR/NC grading.

C5. Can my professor require me to choose S/CR/NC grading in my class?

No. For most undergraduate classes offered during Spring 2020, students can choose, on a class-by-class basis, whether to keep regular A-F grading or to use S/CR/NC grading.

C6. Do all students in a class have to agree to choose either S/CR/NC or regular A-F grading?

No. For most undergraduate classes offered during Spring 2020, students can choose, on a class-by-class basis, whether to keep regular A-F grading or to use S/CR/NC grading. Each student can make their own choice.

C7. When can I choose to adopt S/CR/NC grading?

Students will have the opportunity to choose S/CR/NC grading beginning on April 13, and must make this choice by the end of the day on April 22, 2020. Students can change their mind back and forth before April 22, but students must make a final decision by April 22.

C8. How do I choose to adopt S/CR/NC grading?

Beginning on April 13, students will be able to access the online course registration system to select S/CR/NC grading for their classes. [Step by step instructions](#) are available on UTK's website. Instructors and advisors are not able to change a student's grading to S/CR/NC.

C9. How do S/CR/NC grades affect my GPA?

None of the grades (S, CR, or NC) will change your UTK GPA.

C10. Can I choose S/CR/NC grading in a class that is required for my major?

For Spring 2020, any class in which you earn a grade of S can be used to satisfy any curricular requirement where a grade of C or higher is sufficient. Any class in which you earn a grade of CR can be used to satisfy any curricular requirement where a grade of D-minus would be good enough.

C11. Can I choose S/CR/NC grading in a General Education class?

For Spring 2020, any class in which you earn a grade of S can be used to satisfy any curricular requirement where a grade of C or higher is sufficient. Any class in which you earn a grade of CR can be used to satisfy any curricular requirement where a grade of D-minus would be good enough.

C12. Will choosing the S/CR/NC grading option have an effect on my HOPE or other Institutional scholarships?

- For institutional scholarships (Volunteer, Pledge, Flagship, etc.) the S/CR/NC grade does not affect your UTK GPA and therefore does not affect scholarships. All students who are currently on probation for their institutional scholarships will be given an additional probationary term. If you are on probation for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), additional information will be forthcoming.
- For students with the Tennessee HOPE scholarship, the S/CR/NC grade does not affect your HOPE GPA. The credit hours attempted for any class graded S/CR/NC will continue to be counted as attempted credit hours toward your HOPE benchmarks.

C13. Can I select S/CR/NC grading if I am repeating a class?

Yes. If you are repeating a class as one of your three lower-division (100- or 200-level) grade replacements, the grade earned this semester will replace the prior grade. If you are repeating a class as one of your three lower-division (100- or 200-level) grade replacements and you earn the NC grade this semester, you will lose any credit hours that you earned in any previous attempt to complete the class. To understand how choosing the S/CR/NC grading mode will affect the calculation of your cumulative GPA if you are repeating a class, please contact your academic advisor.

C14. Are there undergraduate classes for which S/CR/NC grading is not an option?

S/CR/NC grading is not an option for any ABC/NC classes. See Section D below for more information about these classes. The list of classes that are ineligible for S/CR/NC grading will be posted online at this address by Monday, April 13th: <http://tiny.utk.edu/S-CR-NC-exceptions>

D. Satisfactory / no-credit (S/NC) grading for ABC/NC classes

D1. What are my grading options if I am taking a class with ABC/NC grading?

A student enrolled in a class with ABC/NC grading can select S/NC grading for this class. If a student chooses S/NC grading for the class, the student will receive one of two grades at the end of the semester. Neither of the two grades will affect a student's UTK GPA.

- The grade of satisfactory (S) will apply if a student completes the class with any grade of C or higher.
- The grade of no-credit (NC) will apply if a student does not complete the class with a grade of C or higher.

D2. If I choose S/NC grading in my ABC/NC class, does my current grade in the class determine whether I earn S or NC?

No. Students must complete all remaining assignments, quizzes, and exams. The letter grade that you would have earned at the end of the semester will determine whether you earn S or NC.

D3. When can I choose to adopt S/NC grading in my ABC/NC class?

Students will have the opportunity to choose S/NC grading beginning on April 13, and must make this choice by the end of the day on April 22, 2020. Students can change their mind back and forth before April 22, but students must make a final decision by April 22.

D4. How do I choose to adopt S/NC grading in my ABC/NC class?

Beginning on April 13, students will be able to access the online course registration system to select S/NC grading for their ABC/NC classes. [Step by step instructions](#) are available on UTK's website. Instructors and advisors are not able to change a student's grading to S/NC.

D5. How do S/NC grades affect my GPA?

Neither of the grades (S or NC) will change your UTK GPA.

D6. Can I choose S/NC grading if my ABC/NC class is required for my major?

For Spring 2020, any class in which you earn a grade of S can be used to satisfy any curricular requirement where a grade of C or higher is sufficient.

D7. Can I choose S/NC grading if my ABC/NC class is a General Education class?

For Spring 2020, any class in which you earn a grade of S can be used to satisfy any curricular requirement where a grade of C or higher is sufficient.

D8. Will choosing the S/NC grading option in my ABC/NC class have an effect on my HOPE or other Institutional scholarships?

- For institutional scholarships (Volunteer, Pledge, Flagship, etc.) the S/NC grade does not affect your UTK GPA and therefore does not affect scholarships. All students who are currently on probation for their institutional scholarships will be given an additional probationary term. If you are on probation for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), additional information will be forthcoming.
- For students with the Tennessee HOPE scholarship, the S/NC grade does not affect your HOPE GPA. The credit hours attempted for any class graded S/NC will continue to be counted as attempted credit hours toward your HOPE benchmarks.

D9. Can I select S/NC grading if I am repeating a class that has ABC/NC grading?

Yes. If you are repeating a class as one of your three lower-division (100- or 200-level) grade replacements, the grade earned this semester will replace the prior grade. If you are repeating a class as one of your three lower-division (100- or 200-level) grade replacements and you earn the NC grade this semester, you will lose any credit hours that you earned in any previous attempt to complete the class. To understand how choosing the S/NC grading mode will affect the calculation of your cumulative GPA if you are repeating a class, please contact your academic advisor.