



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

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www.sfu.ca/vpacademic**MEMORANDUM**

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	June 4, 2021
FROM	Elizabeth Elle, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Elective Grading System Extension to Spring 2022 term (SCUS 21-53)		

Action undertaken by SCUS on June 3, 2021 gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion 1:

That Senate approve the extension of the pilot elective grading system (P/CR/NC) to the Spring 2022 term.



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
Student Services

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION SCUS DATE May 28, 2021
FROM Kathryn Verkerk
Registrar and Executive Director, Student
Enrolment *pro tem*
RE: Elective Grading System Extension to Spring 2022 term

Background:

The Elective Grade System (EGS) was brought into effect in Spring 2021 to recognize the challenges students are facing during the pandemic. The EGS provides students with the flexibility to opt into the grade system for elective courses (and required courses, in some cases), that will not impact their CGPA. This type of grade system is common at post-secondary institutions across Canada, including McGill, UBC, U of T, U of C, etc. The pilot period for the EGS was Spring 2021 to Fall 2021, aligning with other pandemic related, intervention measures.

In order to consider if the EGS should become a permanent grade system, SCUS requires a recommendation from the Registrar’s Office. By extending the pilot period by one term, there will be sufficient data available to inform a full analysis of the pilot program, and make a recommendation to SCUS about the future of the EGS.

Motion:

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and submit to Senate for information the extension of the pilot elective grading system (P/CR/NC) to the Spring 2022 term.”

Thank you,

Kathryn Verkerk

Elective Grade System (Pilot Period: Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021 , and Spring 2022 terms):

Calendar Entry – Grading Systems and Policies

<http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2021/summer/fees-and-regulations/grading-policy/grading-systems-and-policies.html>

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Definition
P	No equivalent	Satisfactory performance or better (pass, ungraded, meets pre-requisite standard)
CR	No equivalent	Credit without grade
NC	No equivalent	No credit

Explanation for Elective Grade System

Students in undergraduate programs may designate standard letter grade elective courses with a Pass/Credit/No Credit (P/CR/NC) grade instead of a standard letter grade over the pilot period (Spring 2021 – ~~Fall 2021~~ **Spring 2022**). This grade will be recorded on a student’s Official Transcript of Academic Record in lieu of their standard letter grade in the course.

Courses that use P/CR/NC grades may not be used to meet the program requirements of any major, joint major, honours, joint honours, minor, double minor, extended minor program, certificate, or any combination thereof. A program of study may allow, on a restrictive basis, and with the approval of the Chair, the utilization of a P/CR/NC grading system for certain program-specific requirements. If such an allowance is made, it shall be noted in the Academic Progress Report (APR).

No more than 12 units with P/CR/NC grades may be applied towards a degree program over the pilot period. Within a given term, no more than 8 units (maximum two courses) may be graded P/CR/NC for students enrolled in 9 or more units and no more than 4 units (maximum one course) may be graded P/CR/NC for students enrolled in less than 9 units.

Students must choose this grading system no later than the last day to drop classes with a WD notation.

A student cannot change from a standard letter grade to a P/CR/NC grade, or vice-versa, after the deadline to opt into the P/CR/NC grading system has passed.

A P (Pass) grade will satisfy prerequisite requirements, when no minimum letter grade is required. For courses requiring a pre-requisite higher than a grade of C-, that department may, at the discretion of the Chair, accept a P or CR grade in place of a standard letter grade. In such cases where the department or student does not consent, the student may need to:

- take the course again under its normal standard letter grade (credit shall be granted only once for the course under these circumstances),
- take another comparable course in its place, or
- not register in that program of study.

Should an undeclared student become declared, or a declared student change their program of study, and a course previously taken as an elective become a program requirement the student may need to:

- take the course again under its normal standard letter grade (credit shall be granted only once for the course under these circumstances),

- take another comparable course in its place, or
- not register in that program of study.

In some cases, with consent of the Chair, a new program of study may accept a P or CR grade in place of a standard letter grade.

In exceptional circumstances, with the consent of the student and the permission of the Dean and the Registrar, the P or CR grade may be converted back to the originally-assigned standard letter grade.

Only standard letter grade courses will be used to meet the grade point average (GPA) requirements for awards and scholarships, including honour roll designations and entrance scholarship renewals; Pass/Credit/No Credit grades will not be used toward these requirements. Students are encouraged to visit the Student Financial Assistance and Awards Office if they have concerns with the financial assistance or awards implications of taking a course with Pass/Credit/No Credit grade.

Students are encouraged to seek guidance from an academic advisor in advance of making decisions about their options.