

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

S20-7, University Policy, Temporary Modification to University Policies F18-5, Grading Policy, and S16-16, Probation and Disqualification, Due to Special Circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Amends: University Policies F18-5 and S16-16 for Spring 2020

Effective: Immediately through Spring 2020

Legislative History:

After SJSU announced the movement to remote or online instruction on March 9, 2020, students and faculty voiced concerns regarding the potential negative impact of this move on student grades. On April 1, 2020, the Senate Executive Committee, in consultation with faculty, students, and administrators, noted these concerns and developed this recommendation to allow students to change their grading scheme and to suspend academic disqualification for Spring 2020. Subsequently, as outlined in Senate Bylaw 4.1. on the behalf of the Academic Senate, the Senate Executive Committee took immediate action and voted on this recommendation to ensure that students will have the maximum time to make informed decisions about these grading changes.

ACTION BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

**Approved and Signed by President
Mary A. Papazian on April 2, 2020**

**University Policy
Temporary Modification to University Policies F18-5, Grading Policy, and S16-16, Probation and Disqualification, Due to Special Circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Resolved: That the following changes shall be implemented regarding graded classes at SJSU for the Spring 2020 semester:

1. A student can petition to the Registrar to request any graded course (major, minor, General Education or elective) be changed to Credit/No Credit grading.

- a. This option will be made available to any undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and graduate student at SJSU.
 - b. Credit is defined in University Policy F18-5 as a C- or better for undergraduate courses and a B- or better for graduate courses.
2. A student can petition to the Registrar by May 1, 2020 to change a letter grade to Credit/No Credit. Students who elect to change by May 1st will have their choice reflected in the Spring semester's grades. A student who chooses to elect Credit/No Credit by May 1st cannot normally revert to a letter grade at a later date.
 3. A student can petition to the Registrar for a grade change from the time their grade is posted through June 8, 2020 to convert a posted letter grade to Credit/No Credit due to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the understanding that there may be a considerable delay in updating their transcript to reflect the change.
 4. Faculty, while remaining available for advice to their students, shall not make the final decision on a student's choice of Credit/No Credit or letter grade.

Resolved: That [University Policy S16-16](#), Probation and Disqualification, Sections I.B and II.B shall be suspended for Spring 2020 Semester. Students who are currently on academic probation and opt for Credit/No Credit for courses this semester will be allowed to continue on probation for an additional semester.

Resolved: That these temporary changes supersede all other relevant university policies regarding Credit/No Credit grades or grading for the Spring 2020 semester at SJSU.

Rationale: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to shift all classes at SJSU to a remote modality. This sudden change in modality has resulted in extraordinary stress to SJSU students, faculty, and staff, with grades being a primary concern. The decision to allow students the option to seek Credit/No Credit for their coursework has not been an easy one because of some potential negative impacts on certain groups of students. Nevertheless, after considerable discussion among faculty, staff and students as well as system-wide discussions with the Chancellor's Office, provosts and presidents within the CSU, the resolutions above will alleviate some of the stressors and create options under the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workload: It is anticipated that there will be an increase in workload for the Registrar's Office and advisors to implement this process for the Spring 2020 semester.

Other implications: It is very difficult to anticipate every implication in allowing a student to declare Credit/No Credit in place of a grade for courses. Students should consult carefully with their advisors before making this decision.

Approved: April 1, 2020
Vote: 13-0-0
Present: Mathur, Del Casino, McKee, Marachi, Frazier, White, Curry, Day,
Faas, Sullivan-Green, Parent, Shifflett, Peter
Absent: Wong(Lau), Papazian
Financial Impact: None anticipated
Workload Impact: Substantial increase for the Registrar and Campus Advisors