

Members of the University community,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Regina. Students especially are facing new pressures. Some are unique to individual circumstances, but all include a change in how courses are delivered.

The University of Regina's main priorities during this challenging time continue to be the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff; delivering a quality education and learning experience to our students; and ensuring that students can complete their semesters and, for some, their academic programs.

The move to distance teaching/remote learning for the remainder of the Winter 2020 semester was based on advice from public health officials. It permits us to provide as thorough and comprehensive an academic experience as possible under these extraordinary circumstances.

The matter of final grading is an issue on which student opinion has been divided. The University of Regina understands the challenging circumstances in which so many students find themselves. Our professors and academic leaders have been exploring options that would give individual students a degree of flexibility in selecting their final grading method.

Today, after careful consideration, a path setting out how to proceed was presented and approved through the University's academic governance processes.

Through Executive of Council, the University has approved additional options for final grades in the Winter 2020 semester. Students are being given choice, class by class, on their final grading approach. They can choose which option best suits them for each class. They can still choose to take their numeric grades in some classes, withdraw from others, and apply the new credit/non-credit options for other classes. The choice is theirs, and the options are as follows:

- We are **extending the course withdrawal deadline** to coincide with the final day of classes (Thursday April 9). Students exercising this option would thereby earn a grade of "W" which will allow them to avoid failing grades and negative GPA impact due to COVID-19 difficulties.
- **Traditional Numeric Grading** – student can choose to take their final grades as the grading approach to one, many, or all of their classes.
- We are creating a new course grade: "**CRC**" (**Credit-COVID-19**) for students who pass a course, but who experience stressors that have negatively impacted their academic performance. Students would have the option to replace their numeric grade with "CRC." The deadline for students to select this option is May 31, 2020. A "CRC" grade:
  - Is considered a credit/pass
  - Does not impact GPA
  - Can be used in degree completion requirements
  - May have some impact on eligibility for funding or financial awards

- Is an irreversible decision.
- Another option for students is a newly approved grade of **“NCC” (No Credit – COVID-19)** for students who receive a failing numerical grade in a course and request to replace this numerical grade so as to preserve their academic standing. The deadline for students to select this option is also May 31, 2020. Students who do not pass due to failure to complete a final exam or other required component of the course, will not be eligible for “NCC”. A “NCC” grade:
  - Does not impact GPA
  - Does not count toward degree completion
  - Is an irreversible decision.

Students can opt for various outcomes among their classes. Further details will be posted at: <https://www.uregina.ca/covid-19/> Step by step instructions will be made available on the Registrar’s Office page in the coming days: <https://www.uregina.ca/student/registrar/>

I want to thank every member of the University community for their commitment and care in these unprecedented and rapidly evolving times. Together, we will continue to navigate our path forward. Please look after yourselves and your families and as always, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)