

Fall 2020 CR/NC for Graduate Students



October 21, 2020

We hope your semester is going well and that you are now becoming accustomed to the online instructional mode adopted for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Our faculty has worked hard over the past several months to adapt course syllabi and assignments to meet the current situation. The Elliott School feels confident that the courses you are taking this fall and will take next spring were designed with academic rigor and quality in mind, and we have been pleased to see how well everyone is adapting to the new mode of instruction.

That said, we understand that the pandemic has caused significant disruptions to students' usual routines and that some of you may experience unanticipated difficulties over the course of the academic year. For this reason, our graduate programs have reviewed their degree requirements, as well as the professional expectations, pedagogical considerations, and accreditation requirements, to determine whether it is advisable to make any changes to the course grading policies for the current academic year.

All Elliott School graduate programs have concluded that **it will be possible for students to take a maximum of one course for Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) per semester** in each of the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, should a student decide this is absolutely necessary.

Fall 2020 Deadline: November 6

- Students will have until November 6, 2020, to exercise this option for the Fall 2020 semester.
- ***No changes will be permitted after this deadline.*** (The decision deadline for the Spring 2021 semester will be announced in the future.)

Important Guidelines

- Eligible courses include core, specialization/concentration, elective, skills, or capstone courses.
- **Exception:** Language courses being taken to complete a program's language requirement must still be taken for a letter grade, and a B or higher earned.
- Courses taken as CR/NC do not contribute to overall GPA.
- To receive credit (CR), an average of C- or higher must be earned on coursework completed for the class.
- For [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) purposes, CR/NC classes **do** count against a student's progression rate. For additional questions, contact the [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#).
- Grades for the Summer 2020 sessions will *not* be changed retroactively.

To Request Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) for a Course:

- Download the [Grade Mode Change Form](#), and enter the relevant information for the one course you wish to take CR/NC.
- Using your GW email account, submit your completed Fall 2020 Grade Mode Change Form to your academic advisor by Nov. 6.

Any student who wishes to take a Fall 2020 course for CR/NC **should consult with their graduate program advisor**. If receiving a letter grade will be important and necessary for future academic plans be sure to consider that in your decision. Students receiving **veteran's or military benefits, student loans, federal aid,**

or fellowships or grants from non-Elliott sources should consult with GW's [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) or the relevant funding source to determine whether their decision to take a course for CR/NC will have any effect on their eligibility for continued funding.

Students considering the CR/NC option are also reminded that a minimum cumulative program **GPA of 3.0 (or higher in some programs) is required for graduation**. Courses taken CR/NC do not contribute to the GPA. A decision to take any course CR/NC should be made with the final required GPA in mind. If you are not currently in good academic standing in your program (that is, if you are currently on academic probation), please note that courses taken CR/NC will not raise your cumulative program GPA and will **not**, therefore, allow you to improve your academic standing. For this reason, the Elliott School strongly recommends that any student who is not in good academic standing [consult with their academic advisor](#) before deciding to take any courses CR/NC.

Elliott also wants to emphasize that there are resources other than CR/NC available to students facing difficulties. If you experience any difficulty as the semester continues, we encourage you to speak with your professors about extensions or incomplete grades and to work with your academic advisor to understand all the other options available to you. Please do not hesitate to contact your [academic advisor](#) in the [Office of Graduate Student Services](#) if you have any additional questions.

Please take care of yourself and those around you as we continue to navigate the uncertainties of this pandemic. And know just how impressed our faculty and staff are by the enthusiasm with which you continue to pursue your graduate studies and by your resilience in coping with our ever-changing world.