



April 6, 2020

Dear Parents of Students in College Algebra,

Having had the chance to digest the email from Michelle Baumstark that came out this morning, April 6, we wanted to make sure you had clarity on what this means for College Algebra. Recall that “dual credit” means your student gets 1 credit (  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit for 1<sup>st</sup> semester and  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester) from CPS for the course, and can also get 3 hours of college credit from UMKC if they registered for it earlier this semester.

**For the CPS math credit:**

- Your student will receive a P (pass) or an IC (incomplete) on home access by Tuesday, April 7.
  - If your child has an IC, your child needs to remain active in the class and work to get their grade up to passing by the end of the semester.
    - If they do not, the IC will turn into an NC (no credit) and they will NOT get the CPS math  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.
  - If they have the P, they will pass the CPS class with no further work done and WILL receive the  $\frac{1}{2}$  math credit for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.
  - Students with a P are still welcome to stay active in the class and receive the rest of the content—their grade will remain a P.

**For those students who signed up for dual credit with UMKC:**

- Teachers will be teaching the rest of the content through AMI (alternate methods of instruction).
- Students will need to stay active and finish the course.
  - Grades will still be taken and recorded from now until the end of the semester.
- Your child will have one more test, and possibly one quiz, which will be taken online through MyMathLab.
- Your child will NOT have to take a final exam.
- At the end of the semester, the teacher will compute the semester grade. The teacher will then average the first and second semester grades and the letter grade that results from that average will be sent to UMKC for the child’s college transcript.
  - Your child has the option of having this letter grade changed to Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) with UMKC. (See next page for further details.)
- If your child no longer wants the dual credit:
  - UMKC is not granting any refunds.
  - Students can withdraw up through 5 p.m. on May 8. (See next page for more details.)

On the next page you will find the more detailed information from UMKC. **Please read all the information carefully.** If you have any questions, please contact Dru Nash, CPS dual credit coordinator at [dnash@cpsk12.org](mailto:dnash@cpsk12.org) or UMKC at the phone numbers and emails listed on the following pages.

This was sent to student emails from UMKC:

COVID-19 has changed the school year in profound, unexpected, and unprecedented ways. Institutions across the state, country, and world are working to provide students with the best experience possible given the circumstances. Here at UMKC we absolutely understand that you, as a student, have been affected by a sudden course delivery change in the middle of a semester along with other disruptions caused by COVID-19. We thank you for your patience and commend you on your grit, endurance, and staying a part of the Roo Family during a very challenging time.

Because of these unprecedented circumstances, we are offering some additional flexibility for the Spring 2020 semester in how courses can be graded as courses were quickly moved online or had other drastic changes in your experience. We recognize that you may have some difficult decisions ahead of you, and we hope that this provides some guidance in moving forward as we close out the Spring Semester.

### **As a student in the High School College Partnership Program, what are your grading options for Spring 2020?**

#### **Keep Going!**

As a part of UMKC's Culture of Care for students our message to you is **KEEP GOING!** We know these are difficult circumstances with potentially new challenges, and you can do this!

We strongly recommend you do all you can to complete your classes and **earn a letter grade**. Adjusting your grading choice can have some very real and negative consequences that may impact how credit can be applied to your degree.

We are providing three options for each of your courses still in progress. Not all options will work for all students and these decisions need to be **made with the help of your parents** and potentially the UMKC HSCP staff.

#### **Option 1 - Letter Grade**

##### **Strongly Recommended!**

By default, most UMKC courses are graded on a standard letter grade scale ('A' through 'F'). If you are counting on and working toward a letter grade, **don't give up, this is the best option!**

Since this is the typical standard grading structure, there is no action you have to take - it's already set up for you.

#### **Option 2 – Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option for Spring 2020 courses ending after March 16**

All undergraduate (including HSCP) and graduate students enrolled in courses (including online and self-paced) in Spring 2020 will be able to choose the CR/NC grade option for all or selected courses that have an A-F grade option. Courses not selected for the CR/NC

option will retain the A-F grade earned. (NOTE: Classes that ended prior to March 16, 2020 are not eligible to be changed to CR/NC grading.)

By selecting this option, either a 'CR' or 'NC' grade, in place of the A-F grade you earn in the course, will be recorded on your transcript. Here's what those mean:

**CR** - you met the standards for successful completion and earned the credit. GPA is unaffected. **You must earn a C- or better in the course for the semester.**

**NC** - you did not meet the standards for successful completion and did not earn the credit. GPA is unaffected. **You receive a grade of D+ or below in the course for the semester.**

The course instructor does not know whether you have chosen the Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option at the time of entering your grade in Pathway.

### **What is the deadline to elect the Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option for the Spring 2020 term?**

Students will be able to select the CR/NC option from Monday May 18, 2020 at 8 a.m. through Friday June 5, 2020 at 5 p.m. (CDT).

### **Option 3 - Withdrawal**

We have all needed to adjust to a modified learning environment! We want to give ample opportunity for you to adjust as a learner. Also, due to significant changes in course instruction, it is anticipated that some feedback about your performance (grades on assignments or exams) may be delayed.

By selecting this option, a "W" for each course requested will be recorded on your transcript. This option should be considered if you believe that you will likely earn an "F" grade for the course. **You may wish to discuss this option with your Instructor and/or your Advisor.** Recorded "W"s do not impact your GPA calculations.

### **What is the deadline to elect the Course Withdrawal Option for the Spring 2020 term?**

We have extended the deadlines so you can take advantage of this option. No documentation is required. [Retroactive Withdrawal](#)– The required petition form is available [Here](#). Late withdrawals for high school students have been extended through **May 8, 2020**

## **How do you decide which option is best for you?**

**STEP 1 – Be sure you understand this section completely,**

First, you must understand the potential consequences. It may be tempting to Withdraw from courses or switch to the Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) option out of fear, stress, or confusion but doing so is risky.

For example, there can be very real and negative consequences associated with the CR and NC grades--that's why most classes don't use this grading structure. There are a variety of situations where a letter grade is required for accreditation, licensure, clinical work, to be removed from probation, to move to the next level in a course sequence, etc.

- Not receiving a traditional grade in a course could impact the ability to transfer coursework to another institution in the future or could impact the ability to demonstrate adequate competence for future employment, licensure, or graduate education.
- Credit/No-Credit grading might prevent prerequisite criteria from being met on future courses that require a specific grade to take the next level course.
- Credit/No-Credit grading is based on a calculated grade and does not align with expectations that graduate students maintain higher GPA (e.g., 80% or more of coursework at a B- or better; some programs have more stringent academic criteria).
- Minimum GPAs are needed to evaluate satisfactory academic progress for financial aid and for students on academic probation.
- Potential unknown impact on scholarships (particularly external scholarships) that require a minimum GPA be maintained.

**Course Transferability.** We hope and want you stay at UMKC, but if you plan to transfer your coursework to another institution, CR/NC grades may only be accepted as elective credit or may not be accepted at all.

## **STEP 2– Keep Up on deadlines for assignments in your courses and for electing options for grading reviewed above.**

Daily: Course Assignment and Exam Due Dates: Continuing to make progress toward the completion of your degree by focusing your efforts to successfully progress in each of your classes, even in this challenging time, is your best approach! Instructors are communicating with you about assignments and exams through Canvas. Be sure to be logging into Canvas daily so that you can do your best to meet these deadlines and complete your best work possible!

**Friday, May 8, 2020: Course Withdrawal deadline (submit an email to [umkchscp@umkc.edu](mailto:umkchscp@umkc.edu), include name, school, teacher and course(s))**

Monday, May 18, 2020 thru Friday, June 5, 2020: Credit (CR) / No Credit (NC) Option period

## **Additional Semester 2020 FAQ's**

### **Can I get a refund for my Spring 2020 classes?**

We realize that remote delivery of coursework is a different learning experience than you anticipated when the semester began. Please be patient and open to this new approach. UMKC will not be refunding tuition or course fees as courses, grades, and credit are still offered. Likewise, student fees will not be refunded. Our goal is to help you and make sure you still have a way to successfully complete the semester.

### **If I was unable to successfully move to an online environment and I receive one or more grades that can negatively impact my progress towards degree or other financial support, are there unique options due to the current situation brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic that can minimize the impact on my academic record?**

If you need immediate action because of negative impacts to your GPA, UMKC has determined that the current situation brought on by the Covid-19 is considered an extenuating circumstance necessary for approval of Retroactive Withdrawal – no documentation of the specific impact to you will be required. The required petition form is available [Here](#).

### **Will my classes be converted to credit CR/NC automatically?**

No. You must opt-in to CR/NC grading option between **8:00 AM May 18, 2020 - June 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM.**

### **May I elect to complete those courses as Credit or No Credit once my final grades are posted?**

Yes, be sure you understand this option fully.

All students are eligible for this option. The potential value of electing this option is that grades of CR or NC do not earn grade points and they do not affect the grade-point average. If you are enrolled in a course fulfilling General Elective hours and are concerned that a grade will have negative impact on your GPA it is worth discussing this option with your advisor. Please consider:

- A grade of C- or better must be earned to earn credit (A grade of CR will be posted to your transcript with no impact to your GPA)
- D and F grades receive no credit (A Grade of NC will be posted to your transcript with no impact to your GPA)

While with the regular grading option an earned grade of D (including D+ or D-) results in the completion of credit hours toward your degree completion, these credit hours will not contribute

toward completed degree hours if you elect the credit/no credit grading option and receive a No Credit (NC) grade for the course.

### **Do I get to choose whether I get a CR or a NC grade?**

No. You choose the grade option, your instructor assigns the appropriate letter grade according to the grading standards set by your department and college/school. On the backend the grade is then converted to a CR/NC.

*For example, if you earn a B, the instructor will enter the B in Pathway and the grade is then automatically converted to a CR if you chose the CR/NC grading option.*

*Please see additional CR/NC grading details below:*

- CR/NC grades are NOT included in semester or cumulative GPA calculations
- Any grade C- or higher becomes an "CR"
- Any grade D+ or lower becomes a "NC"
- "CR" receives course credit
- "NC" does not receive course credit

### **How could the CR/NC option benefit me?**

If your current performance is substantially lower than your typical performance, or you are at risk of not passing the course, that may be a time to discuss CR/NC options with your advisor or faculty.

### **How could the CR/NC option not benefit me?**

Because there is no GPA associated with CR/NC grading, you will not be able to make up GPA adjustment for academic standing and the CR/NC may not be degree applicable.

### **What if I change my mind about electing the CR/NC Option?**

You can change your chosen grade option through between **8:00 AM May 18, 2020 - June 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM**. After that date, your choice is locked in.

### **Is this an CR/NC Option for the online courses I was already taking?**

Yes. We recognize that many facets of life have been affected by this global crisis. Courses that were already offered as online courses are eligible for the CR/NC grading option as well.

Respectfully,

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