

## NRC grade – Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the grade, and why?

Equity considerations urge that WSU provide a safety net for students severely impacted by COVID-related circumstances. A grade of “NRC” (No Record-COVID) functions like a W grade but due to new, temporary federal regulations, Student Financial Services can exclude courses with an NRC grade for quantitative SAP (satisfactory academic progress) purposes. Grades of C-, D+, D, and F are eligible.

Example:

Math	4 credits	D	--> NRC
Biology	3 credits	C-	--> NRC
English	3 credits	B	
History	3 credits	A-	
Com Sci	3 credits	C+	

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Total Attempted Credits: 16 Earned Credits: 9

9/16 =56% without NRC exclusion (fails SAP)

9/9=100% with NRC exclusion

SFS will update the language here if approved:

<https://financialaid.wsu.edu/sap-handbook/>

It will not have an impact on state aid. It may have an impact for students on scholarship; most require 24 graded semester credits over the academic year. Scholarship students who fail this requirement will have an appeal option at the end of the spring.

Students requesting this grade must acknowledge that the request is based on COVID/shift to online instruction/access to technology or other pandemic-related reason.

Information regarding the grade will make it clear:

- (1) there are no tuition adjustments
- (2) there is no credit for the course, and
- (3) what will display on the transcript (NRC)

### 2. Does it apply to all careers/colleges?

The Graduate School, based on constituent feedback, would like to see graduate students explicitly included.

Because of their different grading systems, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, and ESF College of Medicine have requested that their students be excluded from this temporary change. Students in the MBA program are also excluded.

### **3. What is the deadline for students to choose this grade?**

The deadline for electing this grade is January 6, 2021. While not ideal in terms of access to advising during term intersession, a number of processes need to be completed before classes start Jan. 11-19:

- Graduation checks
- Academic deficiency and reinstatement
- Prerequisite checking

### **4. Can the grade be chosen retroactively?**

The Provost's Office would like to amend the proposal to allow W grades already awarded Fall 2020 to be eligible for replacement by NRC. Because of the requirement that the student acknowledge that the reasons for the NRC are COVID-related, the grade cannot be automatically applied (and all grade changes are manual anyway). The student has to elect to take the grade and WSU must maintain documentation of it for the US Department of Education.

### **5. Grades don't post until Dec. 22, and then many advisors are unavailable during reduced operations. How will students get their questions answered?**

Many courses have final projects and exams due earlier in finals week, and some final grades may be available as early as Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. The bulk of intensive advising will be past and there may be time between Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for students and advisors to connect.

Nonetheless, a proactive communication plan will reduce anxiety. It can include:

- Proactive messaging to students if the grade is approved by the Faculty Senate
- Outreach to current W grade holders (advisors)
- Outreach to students with financial aid (SFS)
- Robust web-based information (RO, SFS, Advising)
- Recorded messaging during reduced operations
- Select points of contact during reduced operations
- Reserved appointments Jan. 4-6 for NRC-related questions or issues

### **6. Can a student overwrite an F given for an academic integrity violation with NRC?**

In our opinion that Academic Regulations 46, 98 and 105, together with the academic integrity process (<https://www.handbook.wsu.edu/academic-integrity-process/>),

support the view that a failing grade given for an academic integrity violation should be the final grade of record unless overturned by the conduct process. A student therefore may not choose to replace a failing grade given for an integrity violation with an NRC.

However, to make this operational requires that the faculty member submit documentation to the Center for Community Standards as called for in the academic integrity process and provide a copy to the Registrar; otherwise there is no way the Registrar's Office can determine whether a given F is awarded as a sanction for an integrity violation.

If the faculty member does not follow through with CCS documentation, there would not be a record of the academic integrity violation and the student would be eligible for the NRC grade.