

COURSE WITHDRAWALS and GRADE REPLACEMENT

UNC Policy 400.1.5[R], Regulation Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, defines UNC System standards for undergraduate course withdrawal and grade replacement.

Section II.C of the regulation requires each UNC Constituent Institution to develop policies and processes for course withdrawals due to extenuating circumstances. Consistent with the provisions of that regulation, institutions are directed to immediately:

- Provide students with the opportunity to withdraw from undergraduate courses due to the impacts of COVID-19,
- Ensure that courses that a student withdraws from due to the impacts of COVID-19 do not count against institutional limits on course withdrawals,
- To the extent feasible, streamline their existing procedures for withdrawing from courses during 2020 Spring Semester.
- To the extent feasible, allow for these course withdrawals to happen after the conclusion of the semester, including after the posting of grades

Section II.F of the regulation covers grade exclusion and replacement. The regulation has been updated to require that any undergraduate course taken during the 2020 Spring Semester not count against any institutional cap on grade exclusion or grade replacement. Institutions are directed to implement this regulatory change immediately.

To the extent feasible, Institutions shall note on the student's academic transcript that courses taken during the 2020 Spring Semester were impacted by COVID-19, including course withdrawals and grade replacements.

Institutions are also encouraged to adopt similar provisions for graduate coursework.

PASS/FAIL GRADE OPTIONS

The determination of grading policies is made at the institutional level, and reflect significant differences in local context and student characteristics. As such, each institution is directed to review their grading policies to determine if the use and/or development of alternate grading systems would benefit students during the 2020 Spring Semester and if their development is feasible. Institutions should be sure to follow and/or develop policies that determine how and when alternative grading approaches are applied for students impacted by COVID-19, in accordance with accreditation and other state and federal guidelines.