

Adopted: January 13, 2026

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-999-26

RESOLUTION ON CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING POLICY ON SEMESTERS

Impact on Existing Policy: Amends provisions in AS-975-24 and rescinds AS-479-97

- 1 WHEREAS, semester conversion offers the opportunity to review and revise
2 instructional policies for improvement, clarity, efficiency, successful
3 implementation of the semester curriculum, and support for student
4 success; and
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- 6 WHEREAS, there is no CSU Executive Order that informs on credit/no credit grading
7 policies; and
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- 9 WHEREAS, this resolution refers to courses that are normally graded, not to
10 credit/no-credit (CR/NC) only courses; and
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- 12 WHEREAS, the policy on credit/no-credit grading currently in place was adopted in
13 1997 in AS-479-97 and subsequently modified in AS-528-99, AS-603-03,
14 AS-906-20, AS-917-21, and AS-975-24; and
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- 16 WHEREAS, at the time AS-479-97 was adopted most bachelor's degree programs at
17 Cal Poly were 198 or more units with more free electives; and
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- 19 WHEREAS, the current policy allows for up to 16 units, in most cases 4 courses, to be
20 taken CR/NC; and
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- 22 WHEREAS, with the current policy many students may only be able to take one GE
23 course CR/NC as part of their degree requirements, particularly, if their
24 major department does not allow CR/NC grading in major courses and
25 they have few or no free elective units in their curriculum; and
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- 27 WHEREAS, AS-479-97 restricts the number of quarter units that may be taken CR/NC
28 to 16, of which no more than 4 units or one course in GE are allowed, and
29 no more than 4 units or one course in Major/Support are allowed if
30 approved by the major department or equivalent unit; and
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32 WHEREAS, undergraduate students must earn at least a C minus to earn credit for a
33 course (AS-528-99); and
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35 WHEREAS, graduate and post-baccalaureate students must earn at least a B minus
36 to receive credit for a course; and
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38 WHEREAS, for graduate students, no courses on the formal study plan or required
39 for the graduate degree can be taken CR/NC; and
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41 WHEREAS, for post-baccalaureate teaching credential students, no courses that are
42 required for the teaching credential can be taken CR/NC; and
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44 WHEREAS, some post-baccalaureate and graduate programs penalize students for a
45 grade of CR, therefore students are advised to carefully consider
46 the implications of selecting CR/NC grading; and
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48 WHEREAS, the current software technology does not support automation of the
49 CR/NC grading policy in the Student Center on the Cal Poly Portal nor
50 during the registration process; and
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52 WHEREAS, CR/NC grading policy provisions that vary from program to program must
53 be monitored and corrected for each student in a timely manner to avoid
54 unnecessary barriers to student success or degree completion; and
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56 WHEREAS, the ability to take courses CR/NC can broaden a student's academic
57 experience, which should be encouraged; and
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59 WHEREAS, students should have the option of taking a limited number of courses
60 CR/NC to explore unfamiliar or challenging subject areas without undue
61 risk to their GPA; and
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63 WHEREAS, the option to take a limited number of courses CR/NC may offer a path to
64 support students who enroll in a higher course load during certain
65 semesters due to terms typically offered class scheduling; unable to
66 enroll in the course the previous semester, to stay on track with
67 sequenced courses, or to make progress toward degree in a more timely
68 manner; and
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70 WHEREAS, the option to take a limited number of courses CR/NC may offer a path to
71 support students to complete coursework for a minor; and
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73 WHEREAS, the option to take a limited number of courses CR/NC may offer a path to
74 support students managing unforeseen challenging circumstances

affecting their academic performance and continue making progress toward degree; and

WHEREAS, the provision in AS-975-24 that set the deadline for a student to select the CR/NC option at 80% of instruction, had unintended consequences; and

WHEREAS, students have such a limited number of units they can take CR/NC, the option to select CR/NC grading should have a timeline that allows students to make an informed decision and adequate time to verify they are eligible to take the course CR/NC; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo supports the adoption of the attached Credit/No Credit Grading Policy on Semesters; and be it further

RESOLVED: This policy will be effective Fall 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Academic Senate recommends that the proposed Resolution on Credit/No Credit Grading on Semesters, be reviewed prior to the 28-29 catalog cycle to determine and assure compliance for the Cal Poly Maritime Academy curriculum and licensing requirements.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: November 4, 2025

Attachment: Credit/No Credit Grading Policy on Semesters

Students are permitted to take a maximum of 12 semester units with Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grading with the following specifications:

For Undergraduate Students: A C minus or better is needed to earn a grade of Credit, and:

If approved by the student's major program, department or equivalent unit, no more than one course in the Major may be taken for CR/NC grading. Major courses include major core, advisor approved electives, concentration, support and technical elective courses.

If a course double counts or double-fulfills a major/support/concentration requirement as well as a GE requirement, the units would apply as major/support/concentration CR/NC units.

No more than one course in GE may be taken for CR/NC grading. One course may include a 3-, 4-, or 5-unit GE course. One unit lab courses, not embedded with a lecture course, taken to satisfy the 5C GE requirement may be taken CR/NC without counting against the one course limit for a GE course taken CR/NC, and:

For Graduate Students: no courses required for the graduate degree may be taken for CR/NC. A B minus or better is needed to earn a grade of Credit.

For Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Credential Students: No courses that are prerequisites for admission to the post-baccalaureate Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program may be taken for CR/NC. No courses that are required for post-baccalaureate Teaching Credential Programs may be taken for CR/NC. A B minus or better is needed to earn a grade of Credit.

The deadline for students to choose the CR/NC grading option for eligible courses will be 50% of instruction for the term, or the Friday following that date, whichever is later.

This policy will be effective Fall 2026.

Note: Students are advised to carefully consider the implications of selecting CR/NC grading. This policy refers to courses that are normally graded, not to credit/no credit only courses.