

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  
5
- 6 WHEREAS, there is no CSU Executive Order that informs on credit/no credit grading  
7 policies; and  
8
- 9 WHEREAS, this resolution refers to courses that are normally graded, not to  
10 credit/no-credit (CR/NC) only courses; and  
11
- 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  
15
- 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  
18
- 19 WHEREAS, the current policy allows for up to 16 units, in most cases 4 courses, to be  
20 taken CR/NC; and  
21
- 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  
26
- 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  
31

32 WHEREAS, undergraduate students must earn at least a C minus to earn credit for a  
33 course (AS-528-99); and  
34  
35 WHEREAS, graduate and post-baccalaureate students must earn at least a B minus  
36 to receive credit for a course; and  
37  
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  
40  
41 WHEREAS, for post-baccalaureate teaching credential students, no courses that are  
42 required for the teaching credential can be taken CR/NC; and  
43  
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  
47  
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  
51  
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  
55  
56 WHEREAS, the ability to take courses CR/NC can broaden a student's academic  
57 experience, which should be encouraged; and  
58  
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  
62  
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  
69  
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  
72  
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

75 affecting their academic performance and continue making progress  
76 toward degree; and  
77  
78 WHEREAS, the provision in AS-975-24 that set the deadline for a student to select  
79 the CR/NC option at 80% of instruction, had unintended consequences;  
80 and  
81  
82 WHEREAS, students have such a limited number of units they can take CR/NC, the  
83 option to select CR/NC grading should have a timeline that allows  
84 students to make an informed decision and adequate time to verify they  
85 are eligible to take the course CR/NC; therefore, be it  
86  
87 RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San  
88 Luis Obispo supports the adoption of the attached Credit/No Credit  
89 Grading Policy on Semesters; and be it further  
90  
91 RESOLVED: This policy will be effective Fall 2026; and be it further  
92  
93 RESOLVED: The Academic Senate recommends that the proposed Resolution on  
94 Credit/No Credit Grading on Semesters, be reviewed prior to the 28-29  
95 catalog cycle to determine and assure compliance for the Cal Poly  
96 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 pre-requisites 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.*



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Jerusha Greenwood  
Chair, Academic Senate

**Date:** February 25, 2026

**From:** Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President

**Copies:** Al Liddicoat  
Jennifer Haft  
Rachel Fernflores  
Kris Jankovitz  
Office of the Provost  
Office of the Registrar  
Academic Programs and Planning  
Academic Deans

*Jeffrey D. Armstrong*

**Subject:** Response to AS-999-26 Resolution on Credit/No Credit grading Policy on Semesters

---

By way of this memo, I support the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.

Please extend my appreciation to the Academic Senate and the Academic Senate Instruction Committee for their continued efforts to make efficient and effective revisions of academic policies relating to semester conversion.