

Animal Science Department

Statement on Credit/No Credit Grading of Major and Support Courses

29-May-2020

### Summary

- The University has relaxed guidelines allowing students to *elect* Credit/No Credit Grading in **General Education** and **Free Elective** courses taken during Spring 2020.
- The option to elect Credit/No Credit Grading for **Major, Support and Approved Elective** courses taken during Spring 2020 is subject to Departmental faculty approval.
- Upon review of the potential implications of Credit/No Credit Grading of **Major, Support and Approved Elective** courses on the eligibility of Animal Science students for admission to Graduate, Veterinary and Medical Programs, the Animal Science Department faculty determined that **Major, Support and Approved Elective courses are ineligible for the option of Credit/No Credit Grading.**

### Background

Credit/No Credit Grading is described as:

- Undergraduate students electing Credit/No Credit Grading who have demonstrated Acceptable Attainment of Course Objectives (C-) or better are assigned a grade of Credit (CR).
- Undergraduate students electing Credit/No Credit Grading who have demonstrated Poor Attainment of Course Objectives (D+) or lower are assigned a grade of No Credit (NC).
- Credit/No Credit Grading has no effect on Grade Point Average.

In accordance with recently modified University policies, Animal Science students may *elect* Credit/No Credit Grading in **General Education** and **Free Elective** courses.

Additionally, several required courses within the Animal Science major curriculum are offered *exclusively* on a Credit/No Credit Grading basis. There has been no change in the grading status of these courses.

Animal Science students are diverse in their interests and career objectives. Many Animal Science graduates pursue advanced degrees, including Graduate, Veterinary and Medical Programs. Academic admission requirements, including Grade Point Average and grades earned in specific (**Major, Support and Approved Elective**) courses, for these advanced degree programs vary significantly. Some Animal Science graduates are accepted in these advanced degree programs immediately upon completion of their Bachelors degree, while others elect to pursue this specialize education returning to college later in life.

The objective of the Animal Science faculty is to position all students for life-long success and learning. Some (not all) advanced degree programs have **temporarily** relaxed academic admission requirements by considering courses *elected* for Credit/No Credit Grading. This short-term policy change, intended to assist students currently applying for advanced degree programs, most certainly will revert to the previous standards following the current conditions.

The Animal Science Department policy designating **Major, Support and Approved Elective** courses ineligible for Credit/No Credit Grading is to position our students for long-term success, help them maintain options of applying to advanced degree programs, while alleviating the need to retake a Major or Support course for a letter grade that was originally elected for Credit/No Credit Grading for purposes of eligibility.