

From: [Cherysa P Cortez](#)
To: [Vpdue](#); [Graddean](#); [Bracken Janette Dailey](#)
Cc: "[Jason Stajich](#)"; [Chancellor](#); [Provost](#); [Senate](#); [Cherysa P Cortez](#)
Subject: [Approval & Information] Temporary UCR Regulation Modifications for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:05:22 PM
Attachments: [20-21.JStoVPDUE.GD.RegisreF20W21Regs9302020.pdf](#)
[FAQsReF20W21RegMods.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached the I transmit on behalf of Senate Division Chair Jason Stajich regarding temporary UCR Academic Senate regulation modifications that are to be communicated to campus about Fall 2020 and Winter 2021. Also included are FAQs that will be available shortly on the Senate website.

Best,

Cherysa Cortez

Executive Director, Academic Senate
University Office Building 221
951.827.6154 | cherysac@ucr.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail communication and any attachments may contain confidential and privileged information for the use of the designated recipients named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error and that any review, disclosure, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the Academic Senate Office immediately by telephone at (951) 827-6154 or email at cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu and permanently delete all copies of this communication and any attachments.



Academic Senate

September 30, 2020

TO: Jennifer Brown, Vice Provost & Dean for Undergraduate Education
Shaun Bowler, Dean of the Graduate Division
Bracken Dailey, Registrar

FROM: Jason Stajich, Chair
Riverside Division

CC: Kim Wilcox, Chancellor
Thomas Smith, Interim Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

RE: Temporary UCR Regulation Modifications for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

Dear Jennifer, Shaun, and Bracken:

As always, thank you for your consistent collaboration with the Academic Senate. I write to provide COVID-19 related temporary regulation modifications for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 so that the information may be appropriately disseminated to and implemented on campus. As we discussed, Vice Provost Brown and Dean Bowler will take the lead in conveying these regulation modifications to the campus to ensure streamlined communication. These modifications were approved by Executive Council in lieu of the Division on September 30, 2020. I also attach a related FAQ document for your information. The FAQ's will be posted on the Senate site. Of course, your respective offices may create their own e.g. for students and/or professional advisors.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2020

R1.1.4 A student may drop a course without prior approval no later than the end of the second full week of instruction. For Spring 2020, from the third week of instruction through the grade submission deadline, a course may be dropped with the approval of the advisor. Any course drop which would reduce the undergraduate student's academic load to less than 12 units must be approved by the Dean. For Summer 2020, after the initial drop period, a course may be dropped with the approval of the advisor through the grade submission deadline of the corresponding summer 2020 session.

R1.1.5 For Spring and Summer 2020, no indication of courses dropped during these quarters will appear in students' permanent transcripts. Students who withdraw while

FALL 2020 AND WINTER 2021

R1.1.4 A student may drop a course without prior approval no later than the end of the second full week of instruction. From the third through the sixth full week of instruction, a course may be dropped with the approval of the advisor. For Fall 2020 and Winter 2021, a student may also drop a course through the eighth full week of instruction with the approval of the advisor. Any course drop which would reduce the undergraduate student's academic load to less than 12 units must be approved by the Dean.

R.1.1.5 If a student drops a course before the end of the eighth full week of instruction in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021, no indication will be entered in the permanent transcript. Deans may permit students to withdraw after the eighth week on a

repeating a course previously taken may register for another attempt in a later quarter.

R1.1.6 The final date to petition for conversion from letter grade to S/NC or vice versa will be the end of the Spring 2020 term (quarter) or Summer 2020 session.

R1.2.2 Students enrolled in any undergraduate degree program may receive credit for courses undertaken and graded S on the Riverside campus to a limit of one-third of the total units undertaken and passed on the Riverside campus at the time the degree is awarded. Spring and Summer Quarter of 2020 will not count towards this limit. Units completed on another campus of the University by a Riverside undergraduate student enrolled as an intercampus visitor are considered Riverside work for the purposes of this regulation.

case-by-case basis, in which case a transcript symbol of W, signifying withdrawal, entered in the grade column.

R1.1.6 The final date to petition for conversion from letter grade to S/NC or vice versa will be the end of the eighth week of instruction.

R1.2.2 Students enrolled in any undergraduate degree program may receive credit for courses undertaken and graded S on the Riverside campus to a limit of one-third of the total units undertaken and passed on the Riverside campus at the time the degree is awarded. Courses undertaken and graded S during the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 will not count towards this limit. Units completed on another campus of the University by a Riverside undergraduate student enrolled as an intercampus visitor are considered Riverside work for the purposes of this regulation.

Covid-19 Emergency temporary regulations

(Currently applying for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021)

Withdrawals

In case the student remains above the 12 units limit:

Within the first two weeks any student can withdraw from a course without any approval. Starting the beginning of the third week, and until the end of the eighth week, the student needs the authorization of the advisor (Senate Regulation R1.1.4). In case of drop by week eight (for Spring Quarter 2020 only), the transcript will not mention the withdrawal (“W”) (Senate Regulation R1.1.5). After the end of week eight, the student needs to ask for the authorization from the appropriate Dean, who will decide on a case-by-case basis; in case of authorization, there will be a “W” in the transcript. Remember that a “W” has no impact on GPA nor is, in any form, a “punitive” grade; it is just a record that a student was enrolled for part of the quarter.

In case the student remains goes below the 12 units limit:

Dropping below the 12 units limit may cause serious consequences, including the loss of financial aid eligibility, and may jeopardize the possibility of Continued Registration (Senate Regulation R7.2). Because of that, a student can be authorized to drop below 12 units only by the Dean (Senate Regulation R1.1.4). Department and advisors should be careful to advise students that changes in the total number of units enrolled can have substantial financial aid consequences.

Pass-No Pass (S/NC) grade options

Students have until the end of the eighth week to file a petition to change their grading basis from letter-grade to S/NC. (Senate Regulation R1.1.6) Not all courses offer S/NC grading, but it is an option for most undergraduate courses. (Check the Banner listing for the course at classes.ucr.edu, which will list the possible ‘Grading Modes’ in the Catalog link of the Class Details pane). After registration is final, the student may need to file a petition to change the grading basis of any course from ‘letter grade’ to ‘S/NC’, and these petitions can be submitted until the end of week eight. Courses taken for an S/NC grade during Fall2020 and Winter 2021 will not be counted towards the 1/3 limit (Senate Regulation 1.2.2). Departments that urgently wish to provide an S/NC option for a course in the major that currently does not provide for S/NC grading should contact the Senate Committee on Courses as soon as possible. The Committee has the authority to allow a one-time change for sufficient case, by Committee vote. If departments wish to temporarily change other specific elements in a course description because of the Coronavirus crisis, please contact the Committee analyst, Beth Beatty, so that the Committee can review the matter. Unilateral changes by departments are not possible, and will not be available to students in Banner.

The decision whether to take a course for a letter grade or S/NC rests with the student, as emphasized by the systemwide Senate Committee on Educational policy. An instructor or Department may suggest that S/NC status could be more appropriate for some courses because of the shift to remote learning methods, but the student makes the final decision. Taking one or more courses on an S/NC basis may have implications on financial aid (especially for Veterans), and adverse effect on applications for Professional Schools or Graduate Programs, and for other reasons. The Senate urges departments to respect diverse student needs while pro-actively providing informed and supportive advising for students considering taking one or more courses for S/NC this quarter.

S/NC course and major requirements:

S/NC courses normally cannot be counted towards major requirements. However, department chairs and program directors have existing authority to make exceptions if a student submits a petition to their Department or Program (Senate Regulation R1.2.3). In light of the current crisis, the Senate urges Department and their Chairs to make generous use of this authority. Each department and program should decide which courses may qualify for the major if taken S/NC in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021. The Senate urges chairs to be flexible and proactive in exercising this authority, and confirms that chairs may delegate the approval of petitions to count an S/NC course towards a student's major requirements to professional advising staff. Chairs should provide criteria and guidelines describing which petitions may be automatically approved, and which petitions will still require the chair's individual review. For example, chairs might delegate approval for lower-division courses, or for "additional courses" towards the major but not core requirements, or such other criteria that reflect the department's best judgment.

If departments and programs do establish criteria for counting S/NC courses towards the major during this crisis, this should be communicated pro-actively to majors and minors. It is important to reiterate that students maintain the power to decide, based on their best judgement (informed by consultation with academic advisors and/or instructors), whether to request permission to count an S/NC course toward a major requirements through a petition. This means that it is very important for a student to consult with the academic advisor before changing the grading basis of any. The advisor can also tell whether the course being considered for S/NC grading is a prerequisite (with letter grade) for other courses in the major, which could affect the decision as well.