

Spring 2020 Grading System

Updated 4/13/2020:

The grading system for Spring 2020 has three components:

- 1) All classes for which a final exam is a component of the grade will be graded on a mandatory Credit/No Credit scale.
- 2) Students who believe they are individually prejudiced by not receiving a grade in a specific class or classes may petition to receive a grade. A special faculty committee will consider each petition on its merits. Some situations, such as a student who needs a specific GPA to continue receiving a scholarship or to avoid academic probation, or the special circumstances of LLM students, will be easy to resolve. But the committee will review petitions from any student who can provide a specific reason why they should be allowed to receive a grade. The petition need not be long (no more than a paragraph or two), and it must be emailed to Dean Davis no later than 24 hours after taking the exam in the class for which a grade is sought. The committee will respond to the petitions on a rolling basis. **NOTE: Please do not contact your professors about your petition or send them a copy of your petition.**
- 3) For all other classes, including Lawyering, classes with grades based upon papers, and individual research, the default grade will be Credit/No Credit, but students may elect to receive a grade so long as the election is made no later than 24 hours after turning in a final paper or project. Students who elect a grade for Lawyering will be graded on the Honors, High pass, etc., scale. Note that for Capstone and WIE projects, and consistent with our graduation requirements, you will only receive credit if your letter grade would have been at least a C, even if you do not elect a letter grade and the Credit/No Credit default appears on your transcript.

As before, any letter grades that a student receives for Spring 2020 will not factor into class rank but will count towards that student's cumulative GPA.

The Spring 2020 policies for exams and certificates, circulated previously, remain unchanged.

FAQs:

How do I elect to receive a grade in a non-exam class? Fill out the [Spring 2020 Grading Election Form](#). The election must be made within 24 hours of completing the course requirements. Your professor determines when the course requirements are completed – if you are unsure, please check with your professor. If you have already filed an election for grades in a non-exam class, you do not need to refile.

Can I change my mind? In non-exam classes, you are allowed to opt for a grade up to 24 hours after you complete the course requirements. If you make the election and change your mind within 24 hours after taking the exam, you are allowed to email lawreg@lclark.edu and request to return to the CR/NC grading system but you must make the new request within the 24 hour time frame. For exam classes, you may also change your mind and withdraw your petition (whether successful or not yet ruled on) so long as you do so no later than 24 hours after taking the exam.

Can I petition for a grade in an exam class anytime? Yes, but no later than 24 hours after you take the exam.

If the faculty are grading all the exams, what grade do I have to receive in order for my grade to be CR? To receive a CR grade, you must receive D- grade or better.

Do the faculty have to give NC (No Credit) or F grades? No, the faculty are not required to give NC or F grades and have the discretion to vary the numerical curves stated in [What's What](#).

Will I ever know what letter grade I received in exam classes or non-exam classes if I do not elect for a grade in a non exam class or successfully petition in an exam class? No, you will not be able to find out what letter grade you received in an exam class or non-exam class if you do not elect or successfully petition to receive a letter grade.

If I have an incomplete or extended time grade in a course or for Individual Research from a past semester and I finish the course during spring 2020 semester, will I receive a CR/NC grade in that course or the Individual Research paper? Yes, unless you elect to receive a letter grade in the course or on the Individual Research paper within 24 hours of finishing the course or submitting the paper. If the course or Individual Research paper is intended to satisfy the Capstone or WIE writing requirement, the paper must receive at least a C grade (for the WIE, a C or C equivalent) to qualify as the Capstone whether a letter grade is elected or not.

If I receive an Incomplete (INC) or Extended Time (XT) grade in a spring 2020 semester non-exam course or on an Individual Research paper, how will I be graded once the course or Individual Research paper is completed? Any non-exam course or Individual Research paper that was commenced in spring 2020 but that will be finished over the summer or during a subsequent semester will be graded using the CR/NC system. Students will continue to have the ability to elect for a letter grade within 24 hours of completing the course or Individual Research paper.

How will class rankings be impacted by spring 2020 grades going forward? When the Registrar calculates the ranking for the 2019-20 academic year, spring 2020 grades will not be factored into the calculations. In future ranking calculations, the grades from spring 2020 will also be left out of the calculation.

I was hoping to qualify for one of the certificates. How does the change in grading policy for Spring 2020 impact my ability to do that? For all certificates, the requirements to take specific courses (e.g., Environmental Law for the Environmental and Natural Resources Law certificate) will remain in place. Classes taken this semester will count towards certificates. Courses that would normally be taken for a letter grade but that are graded CR/NC in Spring 2020 will count as graded courses for purposes of certificates.