

Faculty Senate Legislation on Academic Regulations during the COVID-19 Disruption to Normal Academic Proceedings

A. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on March 26, 2020, the Faculty Senate of the Academic Council approved the following policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted normal academic proceedings.

B. LIMITED TERM OF EXISTENCE

The policies contained herein will be operational for the Spring quarter 2019-20 and may be extended further as judged necessary by the Provost, in consultation with the Faculty Senate and other leadership.

C. POLICY CHANGES

The following policies were approved:

1. All University courses (with the exception of those offered by the Graduate School of Business, the School of Law and the School of Medicine MD program unless opted in by those Schools) will be S/NC for Spring quarter 2019-20.
2. Units of credit taken by currently matriculated students at another accredited institution during Spring 2019-20 will not count toward the university limit on transfer credit. The criteria for the types of courses accepted for transfer remains the same.
3. Units of credit taken in extension, correspondence, and online courses by currently matriculated students at another accredited institution during Spring 2019-20 will not count toward the university limit on transfer credits. The criteria for the types of courses accepted for transfer remains the same.
4. Units of credit taken for a “CR” or “S” grade during Spring quarter 2019-20 will not count toward the 36 unit maximum (27 units for transfer students).¹
5. The Senate strongly urges that deans, departments, and programs exclude units of credit earned for a “CR” or “S” grade during Spring quarter 2019-20 from program unit maximums and/or alter program requirements as appropriate.

¹ Note that students who changed grading basis as a result of COVID-19 in Winter quarter 2019-20 and who therefore exceed the limit on “CR” or “S” may apply for an exception.

6. Courses taken during Winter quarter 2019-20 as CR/NC or Spring quarter 2019-20 as S/NC may be eligible to fulfill General Education requirements pending review by the Breadth Governance Board (for Ways), the Thinking Matters Governance Board (for Thinking Matters), PWR (for PWR1 and PWR2), the Writing and Rhetoric Review Board for Writing in the Major, in manners and with timelines that those groups decide.

7. For students who are currently in the 2nd year of their PhD program and have not yet been admitted to candidacy, the university will allow departments and programs to defer the university candidacy requirement that students complete the department qualifying procedures and apply for candidacy by the end of their 2nd year in the PhD program. If departments and programs, specifically the department chair, director of graduate studies, or graduate studies faculty committee, believe that their qualifying process cannot be implemented in Spring 2020 due to COVID-19 disruptions, they may decide to allow students to meet the candidacy requirement by the end of Autumn quarter 2020-21. If a department does offer qualifying exams in Spring quarter 2019-20, students will have the option to defer their qualifying exams to Fall quarter 2020-21 without penalty.

8. During Spring 2019-20, and if necessary, retroactively for the Winter quarter 2019-20, for time-sensitive decision-making the Chair of the Faculty Senate and the Academic Secretary shall be granted decision-making authority on other processes and issues in consultation with relevant Academic Council Committees and Emergency Operations Committees designated by the Provost.