

Adopted: June 6, 2017

**ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-834-17

**RESOLUTION ON RESCINDING RESOLUTION AS-603-03/IC,CC,GEC
[RESOLUTION ON CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING (CR/NC)]**

- 1 WHEREAS, Resolution AS-603-03/IC,CC,GEC [RESOLUTION ON CREDIT/NO
2 CREDIT GRADING (CR/NC)] modifying the rules for CR/NC grading
3 established by resolution AS-479-97/CC Resolution on Credit/No
4 Credit Grading was adopted by the Cal Poly Academic Senate on June
5 3, 2003; and
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- 7 WHEREAS, No response concerning AS-603-03/IC,CC,GEC was received from the
8 President's Office; and
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- 10 WHEREAS, Resolution AS-603-03/IC,CC,GEC has not been implemented for
11 reasons unknown; and
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- 13 WHEREAS, The above situation was not discovered until Winter Quarter 2016, by
14 which time some of its provisions had become anachronistic; and
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- 16 WHEREAS, After a delay of thirteen years it is appropriate to consult the current
17 Academic Senate to know its will on the matter; therefore be it
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- 19 RESOLVED: That AS-603-03/IC,CC,GEC [RESOLUTION ON CREDIT/NO CREDIT
20 GRADING (CR/NC)] be hereby rescinded; and be it further
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- 22 RESOLVED: That the matter of Credit/No Credit be referred to the Academic
23 Senate Instruction Committee for review.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: October 27, 2016
Revised: January 31, 2017

Adopted: June 3, 2003

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-603-03/IC,CC,GEC

**RESOLUTION ON
CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING (CR/NC)**

- 1 WHEREAS, This resolution pertains to courses that are normally graded, not to CR/NC-only courses;
2 and
3
4 WHEREAS, This resolution refers to undergraduate students only, not to graduate students; and
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6 WHEREAS, Students in good standing (not on academic probation) should have the option of taking a
7 limited number of courses CR/NC; and
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9 WHEREAS, The ability to take courses CR/NC can broaden a student's academic experience, which
10 should be encouraged; and
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12 WHEREAS, POWER and CAPTURE currently prompt students to select normal grading or the
13 CR/NC option for each course they enroll in during registration; and
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15 WHEREAS, The current policy, as approved by the Academic Senate in 1997, cannot be fully
16 implemented; therefore, be it
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18 RESOLVED: That undergraduate students be permitted to take up to 12 units of courses CR/NC in
19 accord with the following specifications:
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21 ▪ CR requires the student earn a C or higher; and
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23 ▪ The catalog and class schedule provide advice to students to consult with their
24 advisor when considering taking a major course CR/NC; and
25
26 ▪ The method by which students elect the CR/NC option be removed from students'
27 course selection via POWER and CAPTURE and a designated link be added to
28 POWER to serve as the sole vehicle for electing the CR/NC option after initial
29 registration.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction,
Curriculum, and General Education Committees
Date: April 29, 2003
Revised: May 14, 2003
Revised: May 28, 2003
Revised: June 3, 2003

Adopted: April 29, 1997

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California**

**AS-479-97/CC
RESOLUTION ON
CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING**

- WHEREAS, This resolution pertains to courses that are normally graded, not to CR/NC-only courses; and
- WHEREAS, This resolution refers to undergraduate students only, not to graduate students; and
- WHEREAS, The number of courses a student may elect to take CR/NC should be kept to a minimum; and
- WHEREAS, Students should have the option of taking a limited number of courses CR/NC; and
- WHEREAS, Some balance must be found between limiting the number of courses that may be taken CR/NC and allowing students to enroll in a small number of such courses for the reasons outlined above; and
- WHEREAS, Some departments (or equivalent unit) may approve of their majors taking a major or support course CR/NC, or a GEB course CR/NC, while some departments would not approve, and individual departments should properly have the right, and be allowed to retain the flexibility, to make this decision; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That students be permitted to take a maximum of 16 units of courses CR/NC in accord with the following specifications:
- * no more than 4 units CR/NC in major or support courses, subject to approval by the student's major department or equivalent unit; and
 - * no more than 4 units CR/NC in GEB courses.

Rationale: *The number of courses a student may elect to take CR/NC should be kept to a minimum, for reasons that include the following: It is generally recognized, as evidenced in testimony from recipients of Cal Poly's Distinguished Teaching Award (e.g., memo from Dr. Snetsinger dated 10 Nov. 1996), that students who enroll in a course CR/NC often do not take such courses as seriously as their graded courses, working toward a lower standard and consequently learning less in CR/NC courses; as Drs. Greenwald and Hampsey have stated, "Those involved in teaching GEB courses have complained that the students who take GEB classes CR/NC are often working for a C-. The data from Tom Zuur supports this contention. There were 40 percent more A's and B's among all students than among CR/NC*

students. There were 40 percent fewer D's and F's among all students than among [CR/NC] students. The result is a pronounced downward shift of grades among CR/NC classes" (memo dated 10 Oct. 1996);

Senate Resolution AS-464-96 abolishing the option of taking GEB classes CR/NC was passed in a near-unanimous vote by the Academic Senate in Spring 1996 and approved by President Baker in Fall 1996;

Students at Cal Poly cannot elect to take major or support courses CR/NC because these courses are considered vital to their education, and GEB courses cannot be taken CR/NC because they are considered equally vital to students' education; as President Baker has stated, this resolution "particularly underscores the status of GEB as a partner with the major programs at the University" (memo dated 9 Dec. 1996); as Dr. Zingg has stated, General Education should not be seen as a "second class citizen" in the curriculum (ASI Board of Directors minutes dated 6 Nov. 1996); as Drs. Greenwald and Hampsey have stated, "The implied message that GEB classes are somehow less important is one that teachers of GEB classes find objectionable. If we want to consider Cal Poly a premier institution, then GEB must be taken seriously" (memo dated 10 Oct. 1996);

Prospective employers have been known to disapprove of CR/NC courses on transcripts, which may adversely affect students' ability to obtain jobs;

Graduate school admissions boards have been known to disapprove of CR/NC courses on transcripts, with some graduate schools refusing to accept CR/NC courses for credit, and other schools automatically converting CR's to C's or F's.

Students should have the option of taking a limited number of courses CR/NC, for reasons that include the following: Students may explore unfamiliar areas of the curriculum or enroll in challenging courses without undue risk to their grade point average; President Baker has encouraged the Senate "to protect both the exploratory purpose of Cr/NCr grading and the principle of curricular choice through free electives" (memo dated 25 Sept. 1996);

Students may take a higher course load during certain quarters in order to move more quickly toward graduation;

Transfer students who have taken some courses CR/NC elsewhere may have an easier time making the transition to Cal Poly and thus move more quickly toward graduation.

Proposed by the Academic Senate Curriculum
Committee
February 27, 1997
Revised April 8, 1997
Revised April 22, 1997
Revised April 29, 1997

MEMORANDUM

Cal Poly | Office of the President

