

General Faculties Council approved the following on March 24, 2020, effective immediately:

- a) the extension of the deadline for graduate and undergraduate students to request the Credit/Non-Credit non-grade designation from February 3, 2020 to within 10 days of receiving the final grade for a Spring 2020 course or May 15, 2020, whichever is later;
- b) that, *where a student requests it by the new deadline*, a Credit/Non-Credit non-grade designation may replace any grade for any course offered in Spring 2020, except those where the Pass/Fail option is used or where the course concluded prior to the cancellation of in-person classes, so that:
  - for undergraduate courses, 'Credit' is granted for grades of D and higher and 'Non-credit' is granted for grades below D;
  - for master's courses, 'Credit' is granted for grades of B- and higher and 'Non-credit' is granted for grades below B-; and,
  - for doctoral courses, 'Credit' is granted for grades of B and higher and 'Non-credit' is granted for grades below B.
- c) the extension of the deadline for graduate and undergraduate students to request withdrawal from April 6, 2020 to May 15, 2020; and,
- d) the extension of the deadline for graduate and undergraduate students to request withdrawal with cause from April 6, 2020 to May 15, 2020, or a later date identified by the Dean or designate.

Credit/Non-Credit form:

<https://www.uleth.ca/sites/ross/files/imported/forms/CreditNonCredit.pdf>

Withdrawal form:

<https://www.uleth.ca/sites/ross/files/imported/forms/CourseWithdrawalForm.pdf>

**BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:**

The University of Lethbridge adheres to three guiding principles: people, access, and quality. Further, the University is strongly committed to the academic integrity of its programs, courses, and assessments. In light of this, the University is committed to ensuring that all students receive final grades for their Spring 2020 courses that are consistent with the University's official grading scheme, which features letter grades.

During these extraordinary times, we also seek to support these principles and goals and the success of our students by introducing additional flexibility. The use of the Credit and Non-credit non-grade designations, which is an option already available to students, affords this flexibility.

The Credit designation indicates that the student passed the course and permits the student to receive academic credit for the course toward their degree requirements and use the course to meet prerequisite requirements, but it is not reflected in the grade point average. The Non-credit designation indicates that the student failed the course, and will therefore need to repeat the course should it be a requirement of their program or a necessary pre-requisite course. The benefit of the Non-credit designation is that it does not negatively affect the student's grade point average as it is not included in the calculation of the grade point average.

By exceptionally extending the deadline to allow students to opt to use the Credit and Non-credit designations for any Spring 2020 courses, the University affords students the flexibility to choose to replace their letter grade with the Credit or Non-credit designation, thus reducing the negative implications should a student earn lower-than-expected final grades given their particular circumstances within these unprecedented circumstances. For Spring 2020 only, the limitations normally applied to the use of Credit and Non-credit will be removed, including the limitations on the total number permitted in a single term, for a program, or for a degree, and the use for requirements such as majors, minors, and specializations. Open Studies students will also be permitted to use the designation so as to be afforded the same flexibility as students pursuing credentials. Two limitations will be enforced: the letter grades for those courses that concluded prior to the cancellation of in-person classes will stand and the Credit/Non-credit option may not be used for courses that would normally be graded as 'pass/fail'.

The extension of the withdrawal and withdrawal with cause deadlines will permit additional flexibility for students and advising offices during these extraordinary circumstances and applies only to Spring 2020 courses.