

## Credit/No Credit Resolution (Spring 2021)

*Whereas* Old Westbury is the most diverse SUNY with the highest proportion of students receiving some form of financial aid, and an historic social justice mission that commits the College to the values of access, equity, empathy, anti-racism and intercultural understanding;

*Whereas* the Covid-19 pandemic has prompted the campus community to reevaluate policies that disproportionately impact low-income families and people of color and thus magnify gaps in educational achievement and access to academic resources;

*Whereas* the current Cr/NC policy states that “A student may elect a credit/no credit option with the permission of the instructor. The student’s request (form found on the student portal) must be filed in the Office of the Registrar **before the end of the third week of the semester. After the third week, this contract cannot be approved or cancelled.** Courses taken for a grade of CR or NC do not affect the GPA. Specific restrictions on the credit/no credit option vary by department major. Students should consult with an academic advisor in his/her major program.”;

*Whereas* the withdrawal policy states that (without faculty approval) “... up to the **seventh week** of classes, a student may withdraw from one or more courses by filing an official withdrawal form (found on the student portal) with the Office of the Registrar ...”;

*Whereas* maintaining the requirement for instructor approval for Cr/NC helps to ensure the student receives faculty recommendations, and extending the Cr/NC deadline enhances the opportunity for the student to track their progress in the course and consult with an advisor about financial aid regarding the implications of taking the course Cr/NC;

*Whereas* by aligning the Cr/NC deadline (with instructor approval) with the seventh week withdraw deadline (without instructor approval) students may be encouraged to stay enrolled in a course by switching to Cr/NC instead of withdrawing resulting in increased course completion;

*Whereas* both actions of switching to Cr/NC (with instructor approval) and withdrawing (without instructor approval) from a course require manual intervention from the Registrar’s Office, and by allowing the student to choose between the two options in the seventh week it is estimated that the work for the Registrar’s Office will be streamlined;

*Whereas* messaging and communication of policies to students will be simplified if the dates for switching to Cr/NC (with instructor approval) and withdrawing (without instructor approval) coincide;

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate urges the Administration to change the Cr/NC policy to “A student may elect a credit/no credit option with the permission of the instructor. The student’s request (form found on the student portal) must be filed in the Office of the Registrar **by the seventh week of the semester, the actual date to be concurrent with the deadline for requesting a withdrawal. Note that Cr/NC cannot be selected after this seventh week deadline. Once approved, the Cr/NC contract cannot be cancelled.** Courses taken for a grade of CR or NC do not affect the GPA. Specific restrictions

on the credit/no credit option vary by department major. Students should consult with an academic advisor in his/her major program.”;

Sponsored by: Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate; Academic Policies and Practices Committee (APPC); Kalief Metellus, SGA President; Laura Anker, First Year Program

#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

from Undergraduate Catalog 2018-2020, page 49

### **Withdrawal**

W, signifying withdrawal, may not be assigned as a final grade. After the end of the add/drop period and up to the **seventh week** of classes, a student may withdraw from one or more courses by filing an official withdrawal form (found on the student portal) with the Office of the Registrar. The Registrar will then record a W on the student’s transcript.

### **Please Note: Nonattendance in classes does not constitute withdrawal.**

In extraordinary circumstances, the Registrar will record a W on a student’s transcript after the seventh week of the semester, but prior to approximately two weeks before the final day of classes, if the instructor and the Office of Financial Aid have approved the withdrawal and the student has led the necessary form with the Registrar by the deadline.

Any student who has not withdrawn officially from a course will remain on the final grade roster and will be assigned a final grade of F from the instructor or NC if the student has led the appropriate CR/NC contract. Withdrawals may affect a student’s subsequent eligibility for financial aid awards. Grades are final as submitted.

See the section on Financial Aid in this catalog for a description of the effect of W grades on continued eligibility for student financial aid. A grade of W does not affect the GPA.

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The above resolution was adopted by the senate on Feb. 16th, 2021 with the following vote totals.

22 in favor

2 abstain

0 against