Resolution on Establishing Limits to the Use of Credit/No Credit Toward Degree Completion

*Whereas* there is currently no specified limit on the number of Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) courses that can be used toward students’ degree at SUNY College at Old Westbury (OW); and

*Whereas* some other SUNY-affiliated colleges have set limits to the number of credits that can be fulfilled by a CR/NC or P/F option;[[1]](#footnote-0) and

*Whereas* an increasing number of students have become aware of the option of selecting the CR/NC option since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

*Whereas* it is recognized by faculty that the student population at OW disproportionately faces socio-structural obstacles (financial, familial, etc.) to academic success, especially since the start of the pandemic; and

*Whereas* providing some limited degree of academic flexibility to students to help them overcome barriers to completing their degrees is therefore consistent with the social justice mission of the college; and

*Whereas* it is also imperative that OW maintains high academic standards in order to facilitate the intellectual and professional growth of its students; and

*Whereas* the option of CR/NC may lead some students to put less than full effort into their work for those courses for which this option is selected (since, for example, receiving a D will provide credit for the course without negatively impacting the students’ GPA, and may therefore lead some students to only do the bare minimum to pass courses for which CR/NC option is selected); and

*Whereas* excessive use of the CR/NC option may therefore act as an overall impediment to students’ academic development;

*Be it resolved*, that SUNY College at Old Westbury limit the number of credits that can count towards a student’s degree from courses for which the CR/NC option is selected to 16; that no more than 8 credits earned from CR/NC courses can count towards degree completion per one academic year; and no more than 4 credits earned from CR/NC course can count towards degree completion per semester; and

*Be it also resolved* that Schools and Departments have flexibility to establish additional restrictions on the selection of the CR/NC option for students in their respective programs; and

*Be it also resolved* that students be strongly encouraged (but not mandated) to consult with an adviser from their School or Department before selecting CR/NC for any course.

Sponsored by

Academic Policies and Practices Committee

April 22, 2021

The Proposal tabled by the Faculty Senate by unanimous consent on 5/14/2021.

1. For example, see the policies of SUNY-Oswego (<https://www.oswego.edu/advisement/passfail-faq>) and SUNY-New Paltz (<https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/policies/policies_su.html>). [↑](#footnote-ref-0)