

Spring Term 2014 "NC" No Basis for Grade Conversation

Should we continue to offer the "NC" No Basis for Grade?

Questions/Issues to Consider:

1. *What is the purpose of the "NC" grade?*

According to COPPS and our grading rubrics:

Procedure: Grades: Definitions

Grades

NC (No Credit): Issuing a grade of "NC" is at the instructor's discretion and is used when the instructor believes the student has not participated enough in the class to earn a grade. **It is not meant and should not be used to replace an "F" or "Incomplete".** *Always include the last date of attendance.*

P, NP, NC, I and U are not used to compute GPA

2. *How common is it for faculty to assign an "NC" grade at Lane?*

This chart reflects the number of credit grades awarded and how many were "NC" No Basis for Grade between fall 2011 and fall 2013. Note what percentages of all grades awarded this represents. (College Now grades excluded)

<u>Term</u>	<u># of Credit Grades</u>	<u># of NC Grades</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<u>Fall 2011</u>	39,079	2,764	7%
<u>Winter 2012</u>	38,204	2,671	7%
<u>Spring 2012</u>	35,632	2,791	8%
<u>Summer 2012</u>	12,518	1,134	9%
<u>Fall 2012</u>	35,291	2,650	8%
<u>Winter 2013</u>	34,584	2,438	7%
<u>Spring 2013</u>	31,616	2,328	7%
<u>Summer 2013</u>	10,512	963	9%
<u>Fall 2013</u>	30,975	1,983	6%

3. *Is the reason for assigning an "NC" consistent between faculty?*

Some faculty use the "NC" to provide a grade for students who registered, but never attended.

Some faculty use the "NC" to provide a grade for students who registered, attended for some period of time, and stopped attending.

Some faculty use the "NC" when the student stayed in the class, but did not participate enough to warrant another grade.

Some faculty use the "NC" when students ask that they not receive an "F" to not have their GPA negatively impacted.

Could there be other reasons? *Family hardship.*

4. *What is the impact of earning an "NC" on the student?*

The credit associated with an "NC" is used in the Academic Progress Standing calculation, and it can cause a student to receive an Alert 1, Alert 2, or Alert 3 hold if having this contributes to the student completing less than 67% of attempted credits.

Students receiving financial aid and earning an "NC" will not receive credit toward graduation, but the credits associated with it count against their total available to be funded in the financial aid credit limit process.

Students who are receiving financial aid retroactively cannot be paid for an "NC" grade, but can ✓ for an "F".

An "NC" does not calculate into a student's GPA.

5. *What grade would a faculty member assign instead of an "NC"?*

If the student fails to drop the class by the eighth week of the term, they would receive an "F" for failing to continue to attend and/or not submitting work enough work to warrant a grade beyond "F".

6. *How does an "NC" grade impact Financial Aid?*

While the instructions for assigning an "NC" direct the faculty to provide a last date of attendance, this is not a required step in myLane, so it is possible that we could be in violation of the federal financial aid regulations if we pay a student for attending when they were not in attendance.

"NC" grade credits are calculated into the Satisfactory Academic Progress calculation and are counted in the total number of credits that can be used with financial aid.

7. Do the other Oregon community colleges use an "NC" or equivalent grade?

An analysis of sister Oregon Community Colleges, Valencia College and Salt Lake Community College shows that an "NC" No Basis for Grade is not a standard grade utilized and in most cases it has been retired.

Institution	NC Grade?	Registrar Comments
PCC	No	
Lane	Yes	Recording the Last Date of Attendance for an "NC" is not forced in myLane and is often left blank.
Chemeketa	No	We used to have an "N" grade and that went away in 2009-10.
Linn-Benton	Yes	Our Academic Affairs Committee is meeting to discuss getting rid of X "no basis", and WP "Work in Progress" grades.
Clackamas	Yes	Faculty input the "Y" and it means Never Attended. It counts in attempted credits On our transcript key it says "Never Attended" We implemented a "Y" grade (never attended) a few years ago because students who never attended were getting both "W" and "F" grades for the same behavior. Just last year, we told faculty that they must (a word we never use here) provide a "Y" grade if the student never attended.
Mt. Hood	No	
Rogue	Yes	"Z" indicates no basis for grade (e.g., you do not attend beyond the first third of the scheduled class meetings). If you attend beyond the first third of the scheduled class meetings a grade for the class other than "Z" must be assigned.
SWOCC	No	Southwestern had a similar grade many years ago (it was a "Y"). We require faculty to administrative withdraw non-attending students by the end of the 2 nd week. Students who attended, but stop out and don't drop, get "F" grades.
Klamath	No	At KCC we have no such grade. The student typically receives an "F" grade in your situations below. If the student is not happy, we make them do an appeal for a "Late Drop".
TVCC	No	Our instructor's give students "F" grades; we don't have a grade for students that stopped attending class.
Tillamook	No	TBCC does not have a grade for students who stop attending. They receive the grade they earn, which is a lot of 'F's.

Clatsop	No	<p>Until this past fall term, we used Z grade indicating the student stopped attending, or no basis to award grade. Not all faculty used it the same, and Financial Aid still had to follow up on every student receiving an F or NC to satisfy Department of Education standards.</p> <p>We did away with the Z and now require instructors entering an F (courses with letter grade) or NC (used in Pass/No Credit courses) grades to enter a last date of attendance. The interface for inputting faculty grades requires this.</p>
Salt Lake CC	No	
Valencia	No	
Umpqua	No	We discontinued the use of the "Y" (no basis for grade) about six years ago. Now, instructors must assign an A-F or P grade. Any grades left blank are reported to the VP/Deans for follow-up.