

## FAQs on Choosing Credit / No Credit or Letter Grades

Santa Cruz City School has adopted a temporary High School grading system during school closures. Within this system, parents/guardians in conjunction with their student will have the choice between a Credit / No Credit end of semester mark for their courses or a letter grade for each course in which they are currently enrolled. The questions and answers below have been developed to support families in making this decision.

### When do I have to decide if I want a letter grade or credit / no credit?

- The default grade during this time will be credit / no credit, which means no action is required if a parent/guardian and student prefer credit / no credit to a letter grade.
- Students will have from Monday, May 25th - Friday, May 29th to let schools know if they want grades.

### What are the differences between the two choices?

#### Similarities:

- Credit and a passing letter grade = 5 high school credits for the course.
- UC/CSUs will accept either Credit or letter grades.
- Colleges and universities consider Credit as meeting the A-G requirement for spring 2020 marks.

#### Differences:

- The UC system (but not all universities) will calculate a GPA for letter grades only.
- The district will calculate a GPA for letter grades only. Credit does not affect GPA.
- Spring 2020 (Semester 2 or Quarter 4, as appropriate) will not be included in determining Valedictorians & Salutatorians for the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- Students receiving a letter grade in an AP or honors class will receive a grade bump on their transcript.

### How will I notify the school of my choice? Who needs to decide?

- Credit/no credit is the default mark for all students and does not require notification to the school.
- A digital form will be sent to families to complete and turn in by Friday, May 29th. This form only needs to be turned in if a student is choosing a letter grade for one or more courses. Both the student and parent or guardian must sign off on this form. A form that is signed off by only a student will not be accepted.
- If students or families have questions about which mark to choose, please contact your student's school counselor.

### Can I decide different marks separately for each course?

- Families decide course by course if they want a letter grade.

### What are the pros and cons of choosing either Credit / No Credit or a Letter Grade?

There is no "right" answer to this. Each family should weigh the following considerations:

- How is the student currently performing in the class?
- What is the current stress level of your student with regard to school work?
- Will it benefit your student's GPA to have a grade on the transcript?
- Contact your child's counselor if you want to talk to someone about the specifics of your child's choice.

### Is it possible that I could choose a letter grade by May 29th based on my grade on that day and receive a lower grade once the school year is completed?

The week of June 1st is Finals Week, and if a student receives a low grade on a final exam, it may result in a lower semester grade than was posted on Friday, May 29th. Please note, not all classes will have finals. Teachers will be notifying students regarding final exam plans prior to May 25th.