

## SMJUHSD Spring Semester 2020 Grading Policy

### FAQs

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a dramatic disruption to the educational world as we know it. This disruption has brought to light many questions about how traditional educational systems will pivot towards distance learning, and how that pivot will address ongoing issues of equity, access, the delivery of distance instruction and learning outcomes. These concerns are magnified when the learning environment is outside our control. The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District has crafted a policy that aligns with the California Department of Education's priorities and the UC/CSU system admission guidelines that highlight that student academic progress not be harmed by virtue of grading/credit practices during school closures. Any change in policy will generate questions that don't fit neatly into the language of policy. We have collected the most consistently asked questions and placed them here in the hope that it may relieve some anxiety at all levels as we move towards the conclusion of the 2020 school year.

Question	Answer
If Veronica had an 'A' on March 13th, is she required to complete any additional assignments to maintain her 'A'?	No. However, education is about more than just grades. It is important that students remain engaged and prepare themselves for the next level of coursework.
If John had a 'D' on March 13th and wants to improve his grade (electing for the grade option), can I require him to continue completing assignments?	Yes, he must continue working to reach the grade he desires.
If Christian had a 'D' on March 13th and chooses to take 'credit' (CR), can I require him to continue completing assignments or will he receive a CR if he stops working now?	No, you may not require him to continue completing assignments. Christian will receive 'credit' (CR) because he already had a passing grade of 'D' as of March 13th.
If Victor chooses to take his 'A' letter grade and Jasmine elects a CR, will universities consider them equal?	The CSU/UC system has determined that a (CR) 'credit' is the same as a letter grade of A, B, C, or D.
Is there an advantage to electing a grade vs. CR?	Not for the CSU/UC system. Private colleges may follow different policies. There may be some students who plan to attend private schools where admissions might be done differently and could impact their decision. We strongly encourage students to consider their post-high school options and discuss with parents, teachers and counselors before making this decision.
If 10th grader Tony takes an 'A' in his A.P. World History class this semester, and 10th grader Amanda takes a CR, will Tony have an advantage over Amanda for the Val/Sal consideration?	No. There will be no advantage to taking letter grades over CR for the Spring 2020 semester. This includes grades 9-11.
Will any of the assignments assigned between March 13 - April 10th go into our electronic gradebook? (This is time frame of "enrichment" directive)	Yes- only if the assignment helps improve a student grade.
Can a student who originally chose the grade option change to "credit" (CR) at any time? Is there a deadline?	Yes, a student can change his/her grading option at any time No, there is no deadline to make the change.
Can students opt to take a letter grade in some courses and credit/no credit in others?	Yes, the student may choose CR/NC or grade for each class.

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What about students that decide they don't need to do anything else to earn credit?	Acknowledge that this will happen for some, but we know counseling, support and encouragement matter too and we intend to provide that in an ongoing manner.
Does a student need parent permission to select the letter grade option?	Students can make the decision, but we hope the parent is aware and involved. The student can contact their counselor if needed. There may be some students who plan to attend private schools where admissions might be done differently and could impact their decision.
How does a student request a letter grade instead of Credit?	Contact his/her teacher
Should staff be recording grades in Aeries or Canvas?	Both. Aeries is the official grade record, but families refer to Canvas as our LMS. Update both.
Can we define a percentage across the district to define NO CREDIT?	We already have Board Policy that states below 60% is considered a failing grade, thus would not receive credit.
What about Advanced Placement courses?	The College Board has provided guidance and resources for AP students and teachers. You may access the latest here: <a href="https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students">https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students</a>
What about Independent Studies, PLATO, ITT, Home Hospital, HSP, alt ed. students?	Students will continue working with their respective teachers on courses. If a student was receiving an A, B, C, or D as of March 13th, then the course is considered complete and the student will receive CREDIT.
How do I take attendance? What is the attendance data used for?	This Friday, April 24th, please use the T (for tardy) to designate students who have made contact with you in any format or attempted coursework since the school closure.  <i>Please read the survey questions carefully each week as it is possible that the survey may change slightly to address our needs and allow us to track data such as student responders (growth or lack of), and distribute resources such as hot spots, counseling, or other as needed.</i>
What if the provided Remote Learning Master Schedule guidelines don't work for me?	The schedule is a suggested guideline and might not eliminate the possibility for all conflicts. If they arise, please work with your students and/or colleagues to address these, and contact your site administrator if problems persist.