I am a student in an Education program that leads to teacher certification. How will accepting a CR grade in my Education courses affect my ability to get certified?

Candidates who complete a registered program would apply for certification through the approved program pathway. In this pathway, NY State Education Department (OTI) looks for the institutions’ recommendation for certification in the candidates’ TEACH account and does not look at courses on a transcript. Credit/No Credit courses would not be an issue in this case.

I am a student taking education courses because I intend to apply for certification through the individual evaluation pathway. (I am not enrolled in a registered program that leads to certification.) How will accepting a CR grade in my Education courses affect my ability to get certified?

Candidates who complete college courses, but are not matriculating in a registered program and would not receive an institution recommendation for certification, may apply for certification through the individual evaluation pathway. In this pathway, “candidates must have achieved at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course in order for the semester hours associated with that course to be credited toward meeting the content core or pedagogical core semester hour requirements for a certificate”, according to the regulations.

Students pursuing the individual evaluation pathway who earn at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course may decide to accept the letter grade (and not convert it to CR) so their transcript can be more readily assessed by NY State Education Department.

How do CR grades apply to the general core and content core requirements of NY State Education Department?

The minimum letter grade requirement does not apply to the general core (liberal arts and science) courses, unless they are also counting towards the content core semester hour requirements. CR/NC grades would be acceptable for those courses. In addition, any grade is acceptable, including pass/fail grades, for the 12 semester hour graduate coursework content core for the Professional certificate master’s degree requirement, as long as the college granted degree credit for the course.

I am a senior applying to graduate programs in an Education. How will the CR grades impact my chances of gaining admission to the NY colleges to which I have applied, given the state’s 3.0 GPA minimum?
Each graduate program will view these grades as they see fit. Many colleges and universities throughout the United States are implementing similar type grading options for students for the Spring 2020 semester, so your transcript will most likely not be the only one with a CR/NC or P/F grade. CUNY’s Credit/No Credit grades will not impact the students’ GPA. You have twenty days after your letter grade has been submitted to decide if you want to opt in for the CR/NC grade. We advise you to use that time to check with the admissions office of each program to which you have applied in order to make an informed decision.

What other issues should Education programs and their students consider?

Colleges may give students additional advice stemming from their accrediting bodies, etc. (CUNY will send letters explaining the CR/NC policy to CAEP and AAQEP, in addition to Middle States.) Before choosing this grading option for one or more of their classes, students will consult with their academic and financial aid advisors regarding potential impact to their financial aid, licensure requirements, and graduate school admissions.