

Greetings Students,

The School of Computing (SoC) is aware of the tremendous stress and challenges everyone is facing in this difficult time. Please do your best to take care of your health, your family, and your community as we work through this worldwide emergency.

To help students deal with the dramatic changes affecting the last third of the semester, the University of Utah has allowed students to decide to take courses as Credit/No-Credit (CR/NC). The intention of this policy is to reduce the stress on students as well as to mitigate the challenges some students may have with online learning. For students who are unfamiliar with CR/NC, this means you can elect to convert your letter grade in any course this semester into a CR/NC grade. Such a grade will not affect your GPA, but will show up as CR or NC on your transcript. Before choosing this option, please consider that it may have other implications (e.g., **scholarships, major status, graduation, probation, pre-reqs, or other situations** where a letter grade or specific GPA is required). This is especially true if you plan to apply for Full Major Status (FMS) in Computer Science or Data Science at the end of this semester (Spring 2020). Below are some important clarifications:

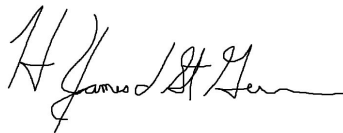
- Please review the University's FAQ: <https://registrar.utah.edu/Spring-cr-nc.php>
- Your decision to switch to CR/NC must be made by **April 10th**. (Note: you can **reverse** this decision up until **April 17th**.) You do not need to make a hasty decision, but can take some time to see how you are doing in your course as well as speak with your instructor and academic advisors.
- A grade of CR (credit) will be reported on your transcript **if you earn a C- or above** in the class, otherwise a grade of NC (no-credit) will be reported. The letter grade will **not** be on your transcript or otherwise viewable by anyone.
- A grade of CR or NC will **not** affect your GPA.
- Even if you are repeating a course, you will be allowed to choose the CR/NC option. The CR grade will replace the old grade. Note: **neither** the CR nor the old grade will be reflected in your GPA going forward. Further note that a NC option will **not** replace the old grade.
- If you are struggling with a course, you should consider withdrawing. Remember, that many courses in CS build upon each other, and often moving forward to the next class when you don't have a deep understanding of the current material, is the wrong choice. See the next item:
- Any course for which a student **withdraws** this semester will **not** be considered when counting the number of times a student has repeated a course. Thus students who have previously taken a course, and withdraw this semester, will be allowed to retake the course without petitioning.
- Students currently on **probation** with the SoC may elect the CR/NC option. At the end of the semester your progress will be reviewed as usual. If, due to CR/NC courses, your GPA does not rise above the probation level, you will be allowed an extra semester (not counted toward your probation total). Specific instructions on any new requirements will

be communicated at that point. **Note:** if you are on probation and plan to graduate, see the following item:

- Students who are **graduating** this semester need to make sure their CS and overall GPAs meet the minimum requirement. If you are currently below the cutoff (2.5 GPA), you may need to keep some or all of your courses as *graded*. Students in this situation are strongly encouraged to meet with the SoC advisors or Undergraduate Director.
- While the CS degree normally requires **all** CS (and other required) courses to be graded, an exception will be made for Spring 2020, i.e., any CS graduation requirement that normally requires a graded course will allow a CR grade in its stead.
- **CS 2420 students** who choose CR/NC in that course, successfully earn a CR, and otherwise have acceptable GPAs, will be **conditionally advanced**. This means you will be allowed to take CS 3500 and either CS 3810 or CS 2100 in Fall 2020. The decision on Full Major Status will be deferred until the end of Fall 2020, and will be based on your performance in the Fall classes. It is important to keep in mind that it is statistically uncommon to do well in CS 3500 without earning a B or better in CS 2420. For this reason, students who would not normally be earning a B or better in the course and elect CR/NC should strongly consider summer preparation for CS 3500. The SoC will be looking at possible options, including online learning resources, to suggest for students in this category.
- Students who do not choose CR/NC for any courses will be evaluated as in the past (e.g., for Full Major Status, Graduation, Probation, etc.).
- For the purpose of admission to the major, electing to take Calculus II as CR/NC will neither negatively or positively affect your application. The department of Mathematics has agreed to accept CR grades as fulfilling the pre-req requirement for follow-on math courses.

Students who are unsure what choice to make should talk with their instructors and their SoC advisor. Again, the SoC and the entire University of Utah is aware of the pressure you are all under and we are all doing our best to find the best solution when it comes to moving forward with your education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. James de St. Germain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H." and last name "de St. Germain" clearly distinguishable.

Prof H. James de St. Germain
Director of Undergraduate Studies,
School of Computing,
University of Utah