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JMU BSN Program Guidelines for Alternative Grading Options Due to COVID-19

Due to the situation with COVID-19 James Madison University and other colleges and universities are providing alternative grading options for Spring 2020. Current students and transfer students are advised to read this advice carefully as they are making decisions that impact their academic career.

The School of Nursing is providing some guidelines that are specific to the nursing major and the BSN degree requirements. Please carefully consider all of these implications as you determine whether or not to apply for the CR/NC option for major prerequisites and requirements.

- James Madison University is providing students with a CR/NC grading option for Spring 2020 semester and 2nd Block courses. The university policy and guidelines for requesting the CR/NC designation on courses can be found on the Registrar's website.
- Transfer Credit:
 - Other colleges and universities are also changing their grading options for Spring 2020. Students are advised to consult the policies and guidelines of their college or institution.

Advice for Current JMU Students Regarding CR/NC and the BSN Program Admission Criteria

If you plan to apply to the BSN program, note that the admission criteria require grades, rather than credit/ no credit for pre-requisite courses. Some things to consider:

- Using the CR/NC option for any BSN prerequisite will mean that it cannot be used for the admission score. If the course is Math 220 or Chem 120, then another attempt at this course resulting in a final letter grade will be necessary in order to become eligible to apply to the program. If the course is a biology prerequisite, then you will need to have 2 other biology courses with final grades to be eligible to apply to the BSN program.
- With respect to prerequisite courses that are not calculated in the BSN admission score (i.e. NUTR 280 and PSYC 160 or the 3rd Biology if 2 Biology prerequisites have already been completed with letter grades), please note the following:
 - Keep in mind that a C- is the minimum required grade for a nursing prerequisite. However, a C- with the new policy becomes a NC and you earn no credit. This means a higher grade than the minimum required for the BSN program must be achieved in order to earn the credit.
 - A "CR" on the JMU transcript for a prerequisite course that is not part of the BSN admission score will be considered as having met the prerequisite. A grade of "CR" will not change the GPA calculation.

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- Remember when using this option for a third Biology prerequisite, if you are not admitted in the current admission cycle, there is not a third biology grade to submit for a subsequent application.
- The deadline to apply for the CR/NC option is May 18th. This will allow students to be aware of final grades in courses before selecting this option.

For nursing majors at all levels:

- If you plan to earn a master's degree, note that accredited Graduate schools often require students to have graded nursing courses rather than credit/no credit.
- Lastly, regardless of the grading chosen, remember that nursing builds on knowledge from day one, with each course building upon the last. Even if you choose credit/ no credit for a grading option, you are responsible for bringing the knowledge from this semester forward to the next.

Advice for Transferring Credit for Courses to JMU to Meet BSN Program Admission Criteria

Students who are taking a course at another college or university and plan to the credit to JMU in order to meet the BSN program admission criteria should take into consideration the following:

- The VCCS will default to P+ (for grades C or better), P- (for grades lower than C), and W. Students must follow published guidelines and meet deadlines for declaring the grading option set forth by the institution.
- A grade of P+, P-, W will not affect GPA calculation.

If you plan to apply to the BSN program, note that the admission criteria include grades, rather than credit/ no credit for pre-requisite courses. Some things to consider:

- Using the P+, P-, W option for any BSN prerequisite will mean that it cannot be used for the admission score. If the course is the equivalent of Math 220 or Chem 120, then another attempt at this course resulting in a final letter grade will be necessary in order to become eligible to apply to the program. If the course is a biology prerequisite, then you will need to have 2 other biology courses with final grades to be eligible to apply to the BSN program.
- With respect to prerequisite courses that are not calculated in the BSN admission score (i.e. NUTR 280 and PSYC 160 or the 3rd Biology if 2 Biology prerequisites have already been completed with letter grades), please note the following:
 - Keep in mind that a C- is the minimum required grade for a nursing prerequisite. However, a C- with the new policy becomes a P- and you earn no credit. This means a higher grade than the minimum required for the BSN program must be achieved in order to earn the credit.

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- A “P+” on the JMU transcript for a prerequisite course that is not part of the BSN admission score will be considered as having met the prerequisite. A grade of “P+” will not change the GPA calculation.
- Remember when using this option for a third Biology prerequisite, if you are not admitted in the current admission cycle, there is not a third biology grade to submit for a subsequent application.