

## Spring 2026 Pass/No Credit (P/NC) Grading Options, Drop and Withdrawal Deadline Updates

For Spring 2026, Northwestern Qatar has extended drop and withdrawal deadlines and is expanding P/NC grading options to [selected major/minor courses](#).

Students are urged to consult their academic advisor about their choices related to these changes.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What is the new deadline to drop a class?**

Thursday, April 9 at 3:00 PM Doha time.

**2. What is the new deadline to withdraw entirely (drop all my classes) in the Spring 2026 semester?**

Thursday, April 9 at 3:00 PM Doha time.

**3. When is the deadline to submit a P/NC request this semester?**

Thursday, April 9 at 3:00 PM Doha time. This is updated on the [academic calendar](#).

**4. How do I change my grading option?**

Submit the [P/N form](#) by Thursday, April 9 at 3:00 PM Doha time.

**5. What exceptional options are available to me this semester?**

To fully support students' academic continuity and progress toward degree requirements, NU-Q has decided, in consultation with Northwestern Office of the Provost and the Office of University Registrar, to extend the drop, withdrawal and P/NC grading election deadlines to April 9 and to offer additional P/NC grading in [some courses](#). Aligning these three deadlines facilitates student, family, and advisor

discussions about how each student would like to and is able to finish the semester. Withdrawing from this semester and starting again in the fall may be best for some students, while dropping a class or two or electing for P/NC grading might be better for others. Still others may continue with their academic work as is. It's vital that you consult with your advisor about your goals and concerns as you decide which options are best for you.

## 6. What are the exceptions to the P/NC Grading option during Spring 2026?

For Spring 2026, NU-Q has introduced additional flexibility to the Pass/No Credit (P/NC) grading option, while maintaining certain core academic principles.

Under the standard P/NC policy, courses taken outside a student's major or program may be elected as P/NC; however, such courses typically count only toward free electives and do not fulfill major, minor, or distribution requirements.

For Spring 2026, NU-Q has introduced a set of temporary exceptions to the standard Pass/No Credit (P/NC) grading policy to provide additional flexibility to students.

These exceptions apply to Spring 2026 only. Students are encouraged to consult the [approved course list](#) and speak with their academic advisor before making decisions.

- **Approved courses:** A [designated list of courses](#) may be taken as P/NC even if they are within a student's major or minor, and these courses may still count toward degree requirements.
- **No academic standing restriction:** Students may elect P/NC regardless of their academic standing.
- **No limit on number of P/NC courses:** There is no cap on how many courses a student may take as P/NC this semester.
- **No impact on long-term limits:** P/NC courses taken in Spring 2026 will not count toward the maximum number of P/NC courses permitted over a student's academic career.
- **Extended deadline:** The deadline to elect P/NC grading has been extended to Thursday, April 9 at 3:00 PM (Doha time).

## 7. What additional courses can be taken P/NC this semester? What exceptionally approved courses in the student's program may be taken on a P/NC basis this semester?

[Find the list of courses here](#) that can be taken P/NC even if they are with a student's major/minor program. Other courses not in the student's major/minor may be taken P/NC this semester as well, per the NU-Q's existing P/NC policy.

**8. How can Pass/No Credit (P/NC) grades be used in Spring 2026?**

During Spring 2026, students may elect Pass/No Credit grading for selected major courses that appear on the [approved list](#). [Courses from this list](#) completed with a P (Pass) grade may be used to fulfill degree, major, or minor requirements. A grade of NC (No Credit) does not fulfill any requirement. Courses in a student's major or minor that are not included on the [approved list](#) may not be taken P/NC. However, students may choose P/NC grading for non-major courses, in accordance with the NU-Q's existing P/NC policy.

**9. How were [these courses](#) selected to offer additional P/NC grading?**

NU-Q faculty and leadership have identified a set of approved courses that may be taken as P/NC even if they are within a student's major or minor, and these courses may still count toward degree requirements. Students should refer to the approved course list to determine eligibility.

Faculty proposed courses for expanded P/NC grading where students required access to on-campus materials and in-person engagement to meet the learning outcomes. Their proposals were reviewed by NU-Q and Evanston leadership and [all were approved for expanded P/NC grading](#).

**10. Can a course with a grade of P count toward a major or minor requirement?**

[A course from the approved list](#) with a P grade in Spring 2026 will fulfill major or minor requirements. NC grades do not fulfill requirements. Courses in the student's major that are not on this list may not be taken P/NC.

**11. How will P/NC classes affect my GPA?**

P/NC grades do not count toward the GPA.

**12. If I already dropped a class during spring 2026, can I re-enroll?**

Decisions to drop classes are final. Students cannot re-enroll in courses that they have already dropped.

**13. Are there any classes that are ineligible for P/NC grading?**

Yes. Other than the [approved list of Spring 2026 exceptions](#), students may not take courses in their major program for P/NC.

**14. What if I change my mind after I submit a request to change to P/NC or after I see my grade?**

Student grade change decisions are final and will not be reversed.

**15. What shows on my transcript if I drop a class?**

There is no record of dropped classes on the transcript, if submitted and approved before the deadline.

**16. What shows on my transcript if I withdraw entirely?**

When a student withdraws from a semester, a simple note appears in that semester record on the transcript that says “Withdrawn date: mm/dd/yyyy.” In the case of this semester, all transcripts will also include a brief note about the unrest in the region that may have resulted in unusual enrollment patterns or grades.

**17. How and when should I make this decision?**

First, talk to your advisor about your academic and career goals. Consider your ability to focus on your academic work, the availability of technology you may need, and whether you and your family are likely to travel during the rest of the semester as you decide whether to use this option. Evaluate whether you need or want letter grades for scholarships, graduate school applications, or awards. Remember that dropping a course or electing P/NC grading are both options until April 9 at 3:00 PM Doha time. To apply for P/NC, submit the [P/N form](#) by that time.

**18. Do I have to change any of my grading options?**

No, students are not required to change any grades to P/NC.

**19. Will my transcript explain the P/NC grades?**

All transcripts will include language relating to the exceptional circumstances in Spring 2026.

**20. I am on academic warning or probation, can I still opt for P/NC grades?**

Yes, students on academic warning or probation have the same access to P/NC temporary grading basis as other students exceptionally during Spring 2026.

**21. How will my P/NC grade be calculated?**

Each instructor creates their own grading requirements and publishes them in their syllabi. Instructors will continue to calculate traditional letter grades for every student in their class(es) and will submit those grades in CAESAR. Instructors will not see students' grading elections; rather, when entering final grades in CAESAR, the grades will be converted to Pass or No Credit for the student based on their individual selections. For students who elect P/NC grades, when an instructor enters a D and above, CAESAR will translate it to a P, while failing grades will be recorded as NC.

**22. If I opt for P/NC grading, will Northwestern share my letter grade with me or a third party later if I ask?**

No. You may see your unofficial letter grade in Canvas or your instructor may tell you what grade they calculated for you, but your official records from Northwestern will always only show the P or NC grade if that is the grading you select.

**23. What should cross-registered students do before selecting the Pass/No Credit option?**

Cross-registered students are required to consult with their home institution before opting for the Pass/No Credit grading option. Approval from the home institution must be obtained and communicated to NU-Q Student Records via email prior to the stated deadline.