

Union County Early College
Updated Grading Options for Spring 2020

We have been given permission to start entering grades into PowerSchool for our 9th, 10th and 11th (and non-graduating 12th) grade students. The district is currently adjusting PowerSchool to accommodate the adjusted grading periods. For second semester, the grading periods will be as follows in PowerSchool:

- T4 = the first six weeks of semester 2. These grades were complete when we moved to remote learning. Students received report cards with these grades.
- T5/6 = the remainder of the semester. This includes the "new learning" period from April 20 through the end of the school year.

Teachers have captured students' averages as of March 13 and will calculate the grades based on a baseline of March 13 grades and the PowerSchool calculations listed above. Students and parents will then be provided a numerical grade, and will be asked to complete a form that speaks to the choice for the course grade (numeric or code "P-C19" which stands for passing the course).

Our teachers will be working in the days ahead on details related to grading and how students can work to improve their grades. Please allow them time to collaborate with their colleagues and finalize these details. Teachers will communicate with students as a class group about details further needed to understand the graded assignments in the class.

Our teachers are ensuring that flexibility is offered throughout the remainder of this term, balanced with the recognition that students need to stay engaged in their learning and complete assignments in order to ensure mastery. If your child is missing assignments from April 20th on, it is in their best interest to begin catching up on these assignments at this time. Because every content area is different, and even course levels are typically different in the number and types of assignments given, please understand that the assignment and grading plans will be different from course to course.

Teachers will continue to post information regarding assignments on their Canvas/online pages and will add details about grading on their Canvas/online pages.

1. Teachers have been keeping track of student grades and submissions using their own record-keeping systems during school closure thus far. Once PowerSchool is adjusted properly to meet the new grading expectations (we are hopeful this will be by Monday, May 11) teachers will begin to move grades into PowerSchool.

2. Final grades - Final Grades as identified on the transcript by numeric or code representatoin for Grades 9-11 will be chosen by student/parent at the END of the semester course based on the available choices below. Students and parents will receive this information prior to being asked to submit their choice selections for each course. Grade representation choices will be for students:

A. If you have a passing numeric grade:

1. Numeric Grade at the end of T4. (Will impact GPA)
2. Numeric Grade as of March 13 (Will impact GPA)
3. OR Average of T4 grade and your grade for the T5/6 grading period (4/20 through end of semester – will also include grades from first weeks of T5 before we were out of school). (Will impact GPA)
4. OR P-C19 (this is a grade of "passing", the course counts toward total credits for graduation, but will NOT impact GPA)

B. If you have a failing numeric grade at the end of the semester AND your T4 was failing:

1. You will be assigned a W-C19 code for this course. A W-C19 code means that you were withdrawn from the course due to the COVID-19 situation.
2. A W-C19 code does not impact your GPA; however, If the course is one that is required for graduation, you will have to retake the course in order to graduate.

Parents will have to approve students' grading choices once we reach the end of the semester. We are working on a plan for students & families to make and communicate these decisions. Please remember that there is a decision to be made for each course in which a student is enrolled. Teachers and counselors will be able to provide feedback as to what their best suggestion is for each course. Again, this will not happen until the end of the semester.

Many of our students have been working hard throughout the weeks of remote learning and they are in a good place to increase their final grade. If your child is one of our students who has not been completing all assignments for a course, I would ask that you get them involved right away. Teachers are offering students opportunities to continue their learning, to earn new grades, and to obtain feedback regarding their assignments. We encourage our students to take advantage of these opportunities.

We hope this explanation helps clarify the process for finishing the coursework for the school year. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the teacher for the specific course, or to a school counselor or administrator.