

University Senate

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Goodwin Forum and Zoom, Meeting ID 818 1954 9462

Chair Harmon called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Allison Govier, Banks, Benavides-Garb, Bradley, Burkhalter, Cabot, Cappuccio, Carvajal, Choi, Donahue, Dschida, Evans, Fisher, Frye, Geck, Hale, Harmon, Jannetta, Mola, Pachmayer, Stelter, Sterner, A. Thobaben, Tremain, Virnoche

Members Absent

Jones, Lancaster, Metzger, Panta, M. Thobaben, Young

Guests

Rouhollah Aghasaleh, Joice Chang, Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond, Jeffrey Crane, Thomas Elliott, Rachael Gipson, Kendra Higgins, Melissa Hutsell, Gay Hylton, Steve Karp, Heather Madar, Michele Miyamoto, Cyril Oberlander, Raven Palomera, Fernando Paz, Sasheen Shailee Raymond, Ronnie Swartz, Jeanne Wielgus

Announcement of Proxies

Jannetta for Lancaster, Jenni Robinson Reisinger for Metzger, A. Thobaben for M. Thobaben, Heather Madar for Young

CFA Interruption Statement

Chair Harmon read the Interruption Statement from the California Faculty Association.

Approval and Adoption of Agenda

M/S (Jannetta/Bradley) to adopt the agenda.

Motion to adopt the agenda passed without dissent.

Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2026

M/S (Fisher/Tremain) to approve the minute from September 15, 2026.

Motion to approve the minutes passed without dissent.

Reports, Announcements, and Communications of the Chair

Written report attached

Reports of Standing Committees, Statewide Senators, and Ex-officio Members

Academic Policies Committee (APC)

Written report attached

Appointments and Elections Committee (AEC)

Written report attached

Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC)

No report (currently no chair)

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)

Written report attached

Integrated Curriculum Committee (ICC)

Written report attached

University Policies Committee (UPC)

No report (currently no chair)

University Resources and Planning Committee (URPC)

Written report attached

Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)

Written report attached

Associated Students (AS)

Written report attached

California Faculty Association (CFA)

No report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI)

No report

Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA)

No report

Labor Council

No report

Staff Council

No report

President's Executive Cabinet

Vice President Fisher reported that the Resilient Communities Network Group has been active in thinking about preparedness, education, and response to immigration enforcement on campus. He answered a question about negotiations with Humboldt Transit Authority, saying they will not be able to continue service to HHM after December.

Registrar Robinson Reisinger reported that a campus message with final enrollment numbers will be going out soon, and enrollment is down about 0.07% from this time last year.

President Carvajal gave a timeline for the strategic planning process. A feedback survey will be going out soon, and a follow-up meeting will happen in November. A bill passed in the General Assembly that will allow Community Colleges to issue bachelor's degrees, but only if there is a proven workforce demand and no local replication of that program.

General Consent Calendar

It was noted that there were no items on the General Consent Calendar.

Consent Calendar from the Integrated Curriculum Committee

The attached consent calendar from the ICC was approved by general consent.

TIME CERTAIN: 3:15-3:30 PM – Open Forum for the Campus Community

Professor Rouhollah Aghasaleh made the attached comments.

Resolution on Policy on Issues Related to Withdrawing from Courses (01-26/27-APC – September 29, 2026 – Second Reading)

Senator Mola discussed the resolution and noted that there were no changes from the first reading. Senators Tremain, Virnoche, and Cabot spoke in favor of the resolution.

Senate vote to approve the Resolution on Policy on Issues Related to Withdrawing from Courses ***passed without dissent.***

Ayes (26): Allison Govier, Banks, Benavides-Garb, Bradley, Burkhalter, Cabot, Cappuccio, Choi, Donahue, Dschida, Evans, Fisher, Frye, Geck, Harmon, Jannetta, Lancaster, Metzger, Pachmayer, Stelter, Sterner, A. Thobaben, M. Thobaben, Tremain, Virnoche, Young

Nays (0): none

Abstentions (1): Mola

Sense of the Senate Resolution on Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California (02-26/27-Ex – September 29, 2026 – Second Reading)

Chair Harmon discussed the resolution and changes made since the first reading.

M/S (Virnoche/Allison Govier) to change the final resolve statement to update the Staff Council Chair to the new Co-Chairs Stephanie Whittlesey & Aylea Maxwell-Miller.

Motion to change the final resolve statement passed without dissent.

M/S (Choi/Dschida) to change the second resolve statement to remove the words “human subjects”.

Motion to change the second resolve statement passed.

M/S (Mola/Choi) to change the second and third resolve statements to add “with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California and on their tribal lands.” to the end, after “research”.

Motion to change the second and third resolve statements passed without dissent.

Senator Choi spoke in favor, saying it is a good first step. Senator Cabot spoke in favor, saying it will provide a framework for student research. Senator Janetta spoke in favor, saying he has already been sharing these guidelines with colleagues.

Senate vote to approve the Sense of the Senate Resolution on Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California ***passed without dissent.***

Ayes (25): Allison Govier, Banks, Benavides-Garb, Bradley, Burkhalter, Cabot, Choi, Donahue, Dschida, Evans, Fisher, Frye, Geck, Harmon, Jannetta, Lancaster, Metzger, Mola, Pachmayer, Stelter, Sterner, A. Thobaben, Tremain, Virnoche, Young

Nays (0): none

Abstentions (2): Cappuccio, M. Thobaben

Resolution on Policy on Grade Modes (03-26/27-APC – September 29, 2026 – First Reading)

Senator Mola introduced the resolution, which will add a new ABC/No Credit grade mode. There are different sets of rules for financial aid, veterans benefits, and NCAA requirements around getting “Credit” and “No Credit” in a course.

This is to be implemented Fall 2027, to give time for offices on campus to implement it. This applies to courses which already have an optional grade mode. If a department wants a mandatory ABC/NC, that would go through ICC for the following year. If the course is grade mode optional, a student could take it as ABC/NC and, if they pass, it can count towards their major.

M/S (Fisher/Dschida) to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm

Submitted by Patrick Malloy

University Senate Chair Report

September 29, 2026

Hi Folks,

As many of you know, we had the Strategic Planning Retreat this past Friday, which was really nice! I really enjoyed working with the group I was sitting with, and it was a great way to end a busy week. The energy in the room was palpable and reminded me why I love working here: you lovely people! I look forward to our meeting in November!

I met with the University Policies Committee (UPC) along with Courtney Loder and Patrick Malloy to highlight the work we've done on policy management modernization. We tasked them with making sure each policy's responsible office is accurate in our working file spreadsheet. In our new Policy on Policies, the responsible office for each policy is now a required piece of metadata to be identified, which was not done consistently in the past. A few members of UPC were genuinely excited for this work and appreciative of our move to PolicyStat, which several folks on our campus routinely interact with, as it is the same platform the Chancellor's Office uses.

We still need to find a Constitutions and Bylaws Committee (CBC) chair; however, I have arranged to meet with them this week. The University Space and Facilities Advisory Committee (USFAC) has worked on some minor changes to their bylaws, and I have tasked CBC with reviewing those changes. I expect this will be fairly straightforward, and we'll have a resolution coming forward soon to approve those changes.

I attended our first Council of Senate Chairs meeting last Friday (actually, at the same time as the Strategic Planning Retreat, which is why I was late), and I'm super appreciative of this group. As always, many of the same issues we are facing on our campus are being dealt with at our sister campuses as well. The big hot topic amongst Senate Chairs right now is related to the concluding GI 2025 information and the Student Success Framework. The report we received concluding Cal Poly Humboldt's GI 2025 metrics was a bit scathing; President Carvajal summarized some of these numbers for us at the Fall Welcome Back meeting as well as during the initial Strategic Planning Council meeting. Many of my counterparts reported that they received similarly scathing reports from the Chancellor's Office (CO), so at least we aren't alone there; however, I do find this style of reporting out to be a bit demotivating, and other Senate Chairs commented similarly.

This is a perfect segue into the Student Success Framework Implementation Team (SSFIT), a group created by the CO on each campus to advise our direction in their Student Success Framework initiative. We had our first meeting last week and discussed some of this data in the CO's report. Part of our work is to help tell the story that goes along with this data, or future data, and why this matters for student success. I was pleased with the acknowledgement by our campus group that the metrics of GI 2025 don't tell the entire story of student success here at Humboldt, and that we have the opportunity to do just that: tell our story and come up with better metrics that relate to student success here at home. There is a lot more to it than that, but I think that's a good summary for now.

Okay folks, enjoy the rest of your week!

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CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

University Senate Written Reports, September 29, 2026

Standing Committees, Statewide Senators and Ex-officio Members

Academic Policies Committee

Submitted by Monty Mola, APC Chair

Members: Julie Alderson, Frank Cappucio, Frank Fogarty, Cameron Allison Govier, Joel Hardin, Heather Madar, Monty Mola, Marissa O'Neil, Jenni Robinson Reisinger

Meeting Date(s): 09/16/26 & 09/23/26

Meeting Details: APC had a very informative discussion with members from the Financial Aid Office on 09/16/26, as well as critical email exchanges with the Veterans Office, Athletics and the Advising Center to inform the new grade mode policy that we are bringing for a first read.

After receiving feedback from the campus community regarding the Graduate Culminating Experience Policy, we will move forward with editing the draft, including a statement at the beginning of the document to let everyone know that the policy does not supersede any departmental policies or practices for culminating experiences.

Appointments and Elections Committee

Submitted by Jorge Monteiro, AEC Chair

Members: Ara Pachmayer, Jorge Monteiro, Michihiro Sugata

Meeting Date(s): 09/17/2026

Meeting Details: The committee met to appoint the nominees collected after the First Call for Nominations and discuss the remaining vacancies. A Second Call for Nominations will be sent next week and we have two top priorities: CAHSS Faculty Delegate in the Senate (1-year interim position) and CNRS Faculty Representative in the GEAR (1-year interim position).

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Submitted by

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

Faculty Affairs Committee

Submitted by Lisa Tremain, FAC Chair

Members: Ryder Dschida (ex-officio); Melanie Michalak; Ara Pachmayer, Claire Till, Kim White (ex-officio);

Meeting Date(s): September 15, 2026

Meeting Details:

FAC discussed incorporating accessible curriculum criteria into faculty evaluation, which would require revisions to Appendices J and K. Next steps include consulting the accessibility task force and the CDRC for relevant resources. FAC initially proposes reviewing what language exists in Appendices J and K concerning establishing minimum criteria grounded in ADA requirements re: how faculty review includes a demonstration of good faith effort to apply accessibility to curriculum. The committee will next review existing inclusivity language in Appx. J and K and connect with CDRC and Accessibility Task Force.

In response to the spring 2026 faculty survey on faculty affairs, FAC is also exploring approaches to review and revision of current student evaluation criteria via student feedback surveys.

Committee discussion included how we might survey faculty to rank which criteria are helpful for teaching growth, and consider validated criteria/surveys used at other institutions. FAC also affirmed the need for clarity that student evaluations cannot be used by administrators for hiring or suspension decisions.

FAC is planning discussions with Council of Chairs groups regarding both of these items in the coming weeks.

Integrated Curriculum Committee

Submitted by Sara Sterner, ICC Chair

Members: Jill Anderson, Paul Michael Atienza, Morgan Barker, Christine Cass, Joice Chang, Tom Cook, William Fisher, Paul Geck, Chris Guillen, Alison Hodges*, Sei Hee Hwang, Laura Levy, Heather Madar*, Bori Mazzag, John Meyer, Rosanna Overholser, Marissa Ramsier, Meenal Rana, Jenni Robinson Reisinger, Sara Sterner (Chair), Anna Thaler, Melissa Tafoya, Mark Wicklund
*Non-voting member; GEAR Chair: Tyler Evans; CDC Chair: William Fisher; APC Chair: Monty Mola; Curriculum and Catalog Analyst: Cameron Allison Govier; Curriculum and Assessment Analyst: Khristan Lamb; Guests by Regular Invitation: Chris Harmon, Senate Chair; Kim White, Interim Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs / APS

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Overview of Meeting Details: **Quick Recap:** The ICC approved the September 8 meeting minutes, September 22 agenda, and consent calendar, then discussed disciplinary expertise and cross-departmental consultation, course-number changes associated with GEAR and other course attributes, and program naming and marketability. Members emphasized contextual review of interdisciplinary proposals, clear communication about changes in a course's function, attention to potential grade-forgiveness implications, and the need to connect programs with data and campus expertise when considering program names.

→See **DRAFT Meeting Minutes:** [09-22-26-ICC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#) (Humboldt Login Required)

Curriculum Development Decisions:

- **ICC-Approved Proposals Advancing to Senate on Consent:** [ICC Consent and Voting Action Calendar - 09.22.2026](#); See also senate consent calendar link in agenda
 - [ICC Straight-to-Consent Calendar Guidelines](#)
- **ICC-Approved Proposals Advancing to Senate by Resolution:** None
- **ICC-Reviewed Proposals Determined to Require Further Development Prior to Advancement to Senate:** None

Read More:

- **Meeting Agenda:** [09-22-26-ICC Meeting Agenda - Approved](#) (Humboldt Login Required)
- **26-27 Curriculum Review Queue:** [ICC 2026-27 MCC Proposal Tracking](#)

University Policies Committee

Submitted by Chris Harmon

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

University Resources and Planning Committee

Submitted by Jaime Lancaster, URPC Co-Chair

Members:

Meeting Date(s): 9/11/26

Meeting Details:

Year end update on 2025-26 budget, roll-forward & reserve – Budget Office

- [Final URPC 2025-26 Financial Summary 09.11.26](#) (original – presented at meeting)
 - [2025-26 Financial Summary 09.11.26 – URPC – Revised](#) (revised after the meeting based on URPC feedback)
 - Carla presented a comprehensive overview of the 2025-26 budget; actual revenues came in at 100.1% of the Final Budget while expenses came in under budget, resulting in a \$4.1M increase in fund balance.
 - Discussion focused on the \$27.6M Roll Forward allocation, with breakdowns showing that \$14.1M was unrestricted and \$13.5M was restricted or dedicated. \$4.9M of the unrestricted was used for strategic investments and \$9.2M was returned to divisions.
 - Participants discussed the presentation of Roll Forward funds and requested additional information. There was discussion about the sustainability of the budget when ongoing needs are being funded with one-time money rather than base funding.
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Academic Senate of the CSU

Submitted by Stephanie Burkhalter and Mary Virnoche, ASCSU Senators

Interim ASCSU committee meetings will take place on Friday, October 9. Sen. Burkhalter is a member of the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee and Sen. Virnoche is chair of the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The next plenary meeting is scheduled for November 4-6 at the Chancellor's Office.

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 22 through Wednesday, September 23. You can find the agenda and recording of the meeting [here](#).

On September 24, Sen. Burkhalter participated as a new member in the first meeting of the year of the systemwide Generative AI Advisory Committee. You can find a list of members of the GenAI committee and its subcommittees [here](#). The committee has issued a 2026 report (see this [link](#)) on the system's strategy and priorities for GenAI, which will evolve over time. A new Communication and Engagement Subcommittee has been formed to improve systemwide communication about AI investment, products and innovation. The general frame is that the system's investment in GenAI so far has been successful so far. Descriptions of the projects that were funded through the CSU Artificial Intelligence Education Innovations Awards can be found

[here](#). There are currently four faculty in the system who are currently serving as systemwide [AI Fellows](#). SDSU is the leader in developing conversations and training for faculty on GenAI.

If you have received an invitation to complete the current systemwide AI survey, please complete it. The data will be used to assess the landscape of GenAI use by staff, faculty, and students to see where and how the CSU is meeting its goals of universal access, innovation in teaching, learning and research, and increased productivity. It will also take into account any concerns or barriers that are expressed in the survey responses. As of last Thursday, Cal Poly Humboldt is currently leading all campuses in the percentage of faculty, staff and students who have completed the survey! Additional responses will increase the representativeness of the survey data, and one reason this is important is that after the survey closes, there will be the ability to generate campus-based reports based on a 2026 data dashboard. You can find the CSU report from the 2025 AI survey [here](#) and the 2025 data dashboard of the anonymized survey responses (operated by SDSU and its IRB protocol) [here](#).

The GenAI Advisory Committee has partnered with an outside firm, Milestones Technologies, to analyze data from surveys and also develop metrics to measure how GenAI is being used across the system and return on investment. The system has renewed its contract with OpenAI, with some additional guidelines on procurement (some required by the legislature). The system is developing and pushing out a common ChatGPT.EDU configuration for campuses to follow, as there is some variation across campuses in the ChatGPT tools that are being “turned on” for use. At the heart of this is to standardize opportunities for use of [ChatGPT.edu](#) package but also to keep on top of systemwide information security challenges with using GenAI tools. The system is moving towards a “multi-model” environment in which multiple AI tools can be used by staff and faculty in the workplace, including Adobe Firefly, Zoom AI, and potentially Claude.

Governor Newsom signed two bills regulating the creation of community college baccalaureate degrees; because of amendments in the bills at the last minute, the CSU ended up supporting these bills and the community colleges opposed them. They are meant to create responsible guidelines for creating these degrees moving forward, as the process under AB927 guidance produced a lot of conflict between the CSU and the community colleges. These bills do not solve the central conflict as the community colleges have vowed in the next legislative session to lobby to amend them to make them more favorable to their position and they do not go into effect until January 1, 2028. You can read more in this [Inside Higher Ed](#) and [Sacramento Bee](#) coverage.

Associated Students

Submitted by Ayan Cabot, A.S. President

Members: Ashley Hurtado Hernandez, Joel Hardin, Nate Heron, Paola Ferreyra, Riley Hemenover, Roselyn Montanez, Ruth Worthington

Meeting Date(s): September 22, 2026

Meeting Details:

Welcome

On behalf of the Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors (BOD), I am pleased to welcome both new and returning students to the Fall 2026 semester. As we enter the sixth week of the term, I want to share several important updates and opportunities for engagement.

2026–2027 Associated Students (A.S.) Grants Now Live!

The Board of Directors approved the grants on September 22, and applications are now open. Associated Students is offering **\$60,000 in student funding to support projects, travel, and professional development both on campus and around the world.**

Whether you're starting a new project, traveling with your Registered Student Organization (RSO), or looking for funding for professional development, there may be a grant available to help support your goals.

There are two grant options available:

- **Initiatives Grants** – Funding for new campus projects and student-led initiatives.
- **Professional Development Grants** – Funding for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and individual students to support professional development opportunities.

For more information or to apply, visit:

<https://www.humboldt.edu/associated-students/funding-opportunities>

Have questions? You can visit **Associated Students in Nelson Hall West, 2nd Floor**, or contact us by email: hsuas@humboldt.edu

Meeting Schedules and Student Engagement

The Board of Directors will convene again on **Tuesday, October 6, 2026**. Our regular meetings take place every **Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in SAC 131** (the Banquet Room).

We strongly encourage student participation through multiple channels:

- Attending meetings in-person or [via zoom](#).

- Providing formal public comment during sessions.
- Submitting [anonymous feedback](#) through our online form.

To propose an agenda item, please contact Roselyn Montanez, Executive Vice President and Chair of the Board. Our Board Coordinator, Tammy Petitjean, will assist in processing requests and coordinating follow-up actions.

Contact: as-evp@humboldt.edu | tlp81@humboldt.edu

Student Experience and Shared Governance

As mentioned earlier, Associated Students is continuing to recruit students to serve on various committees. These opportunities allow students to gain professional experience, take part in shared governance, and connect with fellow students, administrators, staff, and faculty. Creating a strong shared governance system requires everyone on campus to participate and work together to make sure students have a voice in campus decisions.

Attached is the A.S. Committee Handbook, which includes a QR code that you can scan to access the online application form.

Attachments:  A.S. Committee Handbook -8.pdf

Voter Engagement and Civic Participation

The California General Election is coming up on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**, and now is the perfect time to stay informed about upcoming propositions, candidates, and measures that directly affect you. Regardless of your political affiliation or viewpoint, voting is a fundamental right and a direct way to make your voice heard.

Earlier this month, Cal Poly Humboldt hosted a series of events in collaboration with the Office of Student Life, the Gutsurrak Student Activities Center, and the Department of Politics. These events helped students stay informed and engaged with the political cycle through nonpartisan civic and voter engagement. Students who registered to vote at these events received a unique Cal Poly Humboldt **"I Registered to Vote"** sticker and were entered into a raffle to win a gift basket that included an item from the bookstore.

Currently, **Cal Poly Humboldt is ranked #3 in the 2026 California University and College Ballot Bowl with:**

- 32 vote registrations (0.51%)
- 179 voting plan submissions (2.85%)
- 315 total points

We are currently the leading CSU in the Ballot Bowl. Please encourage students to participate in this opportunity to put these values into action through this friendly statewide competition hosted by the California Secretary of State's Students Vote Project.

Let's keep **Cal Poly Humboldt ranked #1 in the CSU** and [let's get to #1 overall.](#)

You can help Cal Poly Humboldt earn points by:

- Registering to vote or updating your voter registration;
- Creating and submitting a plan to vote;
- Encouraging friends and classmates to participate.

Let's show California that Lumberjacks are ready to make their voices heard!

Cal Poly Humboldt is committed to nonpartisan civic and voter engagement. Participation in the Ballot Bowl does not require or encourage support for any political party, candidate, or position.

California Faculty Association

Submitted by Ryder Dschida, CFA Humboldt Chapter President

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Submitted by Rosamel Benavides-Garb, Campus Diversity Officer

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: "No report"

Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association

Submitted by Marshelle Thobaben, Senate Representative for ERFSA

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: No Report

Labor Council

Submitted by Phillip Bradley, Labor Council Delegate

Members: Ryder Dschida Edwin Espinoza Ann Johnson-Cruz, Phil Bradley

Meeting Date(s): Next meeting 10/13/26

Meeting Details: "no report"

Staff Council

Submitted by Senator Sulaina Banks

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

President's Executive Cabinet

Richard Carvajal, President

Bethany Gilden, Acting Chief of Staff

Shawna Young, Interim Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

Michael Fisher, VP for Administration & Finance and CFO

Peggy Metzger, Interim VP for Enrollment Management & Student Success

Steve Karp, Interim VP for University Advancement

Nick Pettit, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports

Brian Walther, University Counsel

Meeting Details: No Report

University Senate

Integrated Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar

Approved at ICC: 09/22/2026

September 29, 2026

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Consent Calendar

Courses

[BA - 450 - 26-3426 - Consent Course Change - Intermediate Financial Accounting](#). Description change. Format of the requisite changed to meet existing standards. **Existing Description:** This course helps students develop knowledge of accounting concepts, standards, and procedures by examining complex issues related to the measurement and reporting of income, current assets, and current liabilities. **Proposed Description:** Preparation of financial statements; financial statement analysis; measurement and reporting of revenue, current assets, current liabilities, and property, plant, and equipment.

[BA - 451 - 26-3427 - Consent Course Change - BA - 451 - 26-3427](#). Description change only. **Current Description:** Financial accounting theory, regulations, and practice for valuing and reporting liabilities, equity, and cash-flows. Includes coverage of current, special topics relevant to financial accounting. **Proposed Description:** Accounting for long-term debt, leases, and shareholders' equity, share-based compensation and earnings per share, business combination, consolidation of financial information, foreign currency related accounting, and accounting changes and error corrections.

[ESM - 365 - 26-3440 - Consent Course Change - Local Government Planning](#). Remove prerequisite course (ESM 360). Add two courses as Recommended Preparation (ESM 205 and ESM 210).

[MBA - 675 - 26-3436 - Consent Course Change - Sustainability/Ethics](#). Add Hybrid and Online Instruction Modes.

[MBA - 679 - 26-3437 - Consent Course Change - Strategic Analysis](#). Add Hybrid and Online Instruction Modes.

[MBA - 680 - 26-3438 - Consent Course Change - Selected Topics in Business Administration](#). Add Hybrid and Online Instruction Modes.

[MUS - 106J - 25-3399 - Consent Course Change - AM Jazz Band](#) - Proposed Changes: Revise the course description to remove "an audition is required." Remove Instructor Permission required to enroll.

[MUS - 301 - 25-3398 - Consent Course Change - Rock: An American Music](#) - Proposed Changes: Revise course description.

[TA - 106 - 25-3194 - Consent Course Change - Behind the Scenes in Theatre](#) - Proposed Changes: New description. Introduction to theatre production including scenery, props, lighting, sound, costumes and other creative processes. Learn skills associated with theatrical productions in the scene, costume, or prop shop.

Dear Chair Harmon and Senators,

For almost two years, I have repeatedly asked this university to establish meaningful, independent oversight of the University Police Department. We still do not have that oversight.

Just weeks ago, a Humboldt County judge invalidated a UPD search warrant used to seize a graduate student's phone, computers, university laptop, cameras, memory cards, and hard drives. The court concluded that the asserted connection between those devices and an alleged conspiracy was insufficient and ordered the property returned. The conspiracy charge invoked in seeking that evidence was never ultimately filed.

This is not an abstract civil-liberties question. When police arrest members of our community or seize their property, the consequences begin immediately—regardless of whether the government's case ultimately succeeds. People lose access to their devices, their work, their education, their income, their time, and their sense of security. The University spends resources. The community absorbs the damage. And the institution's reputation absorbs it as well.

I therefore want the University to produce a transparent accounting of UPD enforcement outcomes: arrests, searches, seizures, charges referred, charges actually filed, cases dismissed or declined, property returned, and the institutional costs associated with those actions. If the University believes UPD's practices are justified, then those practices should withstand transparent review.

<https://kymkemp.com/2026/09/02/judge-overturms-search-warrant-in-student-activist-case-devices-ordered-returned/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-FtNeucp-K2a0JcvsBgyWCCMqcyooa9i/view>

There is another accountability issue that now requires immediate attention.

In July 2026, CalMatters reported an investigation on compliance with California's military-equipment transparency law across all 148 public colleges and universities. It specifically reported that **Cal Poly Humboldt did not hold the required campus forum in 2025** and did not answer questions about when that meeting had occurred. State law requires such a forum to be conveniently located and well publicized after publication of the annual report according to Assembly Bill No. 481- CHAPTER 406.

<https://calmatters.org/education/2026/07/california-campus-police-military-weapons/>

<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB481/id/2435304>

UPD's own September 2025 report says that the department possesses five bean-bag shotguns and four pepper-ball launchers and planned to replace the pepper-ball launchers removed from service. Yet instead of documenting the required public forum, the report says UPD would make a presentation on AB 481 to the Campus Safety and Police Committee "**once the committee has been re-established.**"

https://www.humboldt.edu/sites/default/files/police/2026-03/2025regulatedequip-inventory-report_0.pdf

A statutory requirement for public accountability cannot simply wait for a committee to someday be re-established.

So today I am asking President Carvajal for concrete action.

First, establish an independent UPD oversight committee with meaningful faculty, staff, student, and community representation.

Second, conduct an independent review of UPD arrests, searches, seizures, use of force, and case outcomes over the past several years, including the public and institutional costs of cases that do not result in prosecution or conviction.

Third, conduct and disclose a conflict-of-interest review of UPD personnel's outside employment—including any employment, contracting, or financial relationships with federal immigration enforcement agencies such as ICE (this is on the agenda for many city councils in CA right now), bail or bond businesses, private security organizations, or other entities whose interests could intersect with their police duties.

Fourth, bring UPD immediately into full compliance with AB 481's transparency and community-engagement requirements and publicly document that compliance.

And finally, I ask this Senate and this administration to confront a fundamental question: **Who polices the police on this campus?**

Accountability cannot consist of UPD investigating UPD, reporting about UPD, and determining for itself whether UPD has complied with policy.

Our students are accountable to this institution. Faculty are accountable. Staff are accountable. Administrators are accountable.

Police officers entrusted with extraordinary state authority—the authority to detain, arrest, search, seize property, and use force—must be accountable too. The sense of trust to UPD expressed by Chair Harmon in Spring 2026 is tightly connected to positionality. This is not a shared experience for BIPOC, poor and alternatively housed, trans and queer, and neurodivergent students.

I am asking the President and this Senate to establish that accountability now.

<https://www.humboldt.edu/police/about/policies-public-postings>

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution on Policy on Issues Related to Withdrawing from Courses

01-26/27-Academic Affairs — September 29, 2026 — Second Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the President the approval of the Cal Poly Humboldt policy on Withdrawing from Courses.

RATIONALE:

Prior Senate resolutions established rules around withdrawing from courses at different deadlines (e.g., add/drop, Withdrawal, etc.). VPAA 22-09 aggregated the policies centered on the withdrawing/dropping of courses in one document. This update builds in deadline flexibility if a given deadline happens to fall on a holiday/campus closure.

Policy on Issues Related to Withdrawing from Courses
Policy VPAA 26-XX
Office of Academic Programs

Applies to: Faculty, staff, & students

Supersedes:

[VPAA 22-09](#)

Purpose of the Policy:

To further clarify when and how students may withdraw from one, some or all classes, this campus policy is intended to serve as an addendum for the systemwide policy on CSU Grading, Repetition of Courses, Academic Renewal, and Appeals (formerly known as [Executive Order 1037](#)). Cal Poly Humboldt has provided the following definitions as addendum to the systemwide policy:

1. defines “serious and compelling” withdrawal,
2. defines “catastrophic” withdrawal,
3. defines an internal grade “WC” for these catastrophic withdrawals,
4. establishes a Grade Point Average (GPA) forgiveness policy for undergraduate students in the first semester they receive Withdrawal Unauthorized (WU) grades at Cal Poly Humboldt, providing students a one-time opportunity to minimize the GPA impact of Unauthorized Withdrawals and giving them the chance to improve their GPA by engaging with university procedures and resources, and learning how to navigate the official withdrawal process for future semesters if needed

Policy Details:

Students are responsible for adding or dropping the correct courses on their schedules prior to the Add/Drop Deadline. After the Add/Drop Deadline students are required to follow university withdrawal procedures by filing a request with the Office of the Registrar, whether the student has ever attended classes or not. Requests to withdraw will only be approved with a “serious and compelling” or “catastrophic” reason with supporting documentation. A student is not allowed to withdraw during the last five weeks of instruction or later except in cases where the cause of withdrawal is due to circumstances clearly beyond the student’s control (“catastrophic”) and the assignment of an incomplete grade is not practicable.

Faculty are strongly encouraged to provide students, whenever possible, with graded feedback in every course before the Add/Drop Deadline. Drops and withdrawals often carry serious academic and financial consequences, including delaying time to degree, loss of momentum, impacts on full/part-time status for fees and/or financial aid eligibility, veterans benefits, on-campus housing, athletic eligibility, and visa status for international students. Faculty members are urged to remind students to consult with an advisor as well as the Financial Aid office before withdrawing from a class. Students who receive financial aid funds are urged to consult with Financial Aid prior to withdrawing from the university regarding any required return or repayment of grant or loan assistance received, which may result in a debt owed to the institution and negatively impact eligibility to receive financial aid in future semesters. International students here on an F1 or J1 visa are urged to consult with their immigration advisor prior to any drops or withdrawals regarding the effects these changes may have on their immigration status

Definitions and related policy

- I. Add/Drop Deadline: the first business day of week 3 of the regular semester at 11:59pm PST/PDT. Students are responsible for ensuring the correct courses are on their official class schedules in their Student Center prior to the Add/Drop Deadline.
- II. Drops: Students are allowed to disenroll (drop) a course before the add/drop via Student Center. A student who formally drops prior to the Add/Drop Deadline will have only an appropriate date of withdrawal (no coursework) appear on the academic record for that term.
 - A. Note: the university may disenroll a student from a course administratively, when enrollment in a course is contingent upon attendance (see the [Faculty Initiated Drop for Non-Attendance Policy](#), 27-15/16-APC), satisfying enrollment requisites, related deadlines, etc
- III. Official Withdrawal (W): The grading symbol “W” on the transcript indicates the student was permitted to withdraw from the course after the deadline with an approved and documented reason. This grading symbol carries no connotation of quality of student performance and is not used in calculating grade point average. Students who find it necessary to withdraw after enrolling must follow official withdrawal procedures by filing a request with the Office of the Registrar.
 - A. Withdrawal Limits: Students may withdraw from no more than 18 semester units of coursework at Cal Poly Humboldt.
 - B. Serious & Compelling Withdrawal:
 1. Timeline: Serious & compelling withdrawals are considered after the Add/Drop Deadline through 11:59 PM PST/PDT on the first business day of the 11th week of classes.

2. "Serious and compelling" reasons: these are typically outside a student's control and generally limited to the following: mental and physical health, loss of care for dependents, inappropriate behavior of someone else in the classroom, and serious reversal in the student's financial situation. The Office of the Registrar will review the student's request and documentation. If the student provides sufficient documentation, the faculty members teaching the course will be notified that a student has petitioned for a Withdrawal and be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Registrar's office if necessary.

C. Catastrophic Withdrawal:

1. Timeline: Catastrophic withdrawals are considered after the Add/Drop Deadline through the end of instruction. This is the only category of withdrawal permitted in the last five weeks of instruction.
2. Catastrophic Reasons: these are typically events clearly beyond a student's control, preventing attendance, and in cases where the assignment of an Incomplete grade is not practicable. Examples include severe medical and/or mental health conditions, being called to military service, consequences of the death of a close family member, or being directly impacted by natural disaster. Verifiable documentation of the event must be provided to the Registrar's office, who will determine whether or not a Catastrophic Withdrawal is appropriate. If the student provides sufficient documentation to the Registrar's office, faculty members teaching the course will be notified that a student has petitioned for a Catastrophic Withdrawal and be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Registrar's office if necessary. Note: internally, the student's grade will be recorded as a catastrophic withdrawal, "WC", as Catastrophic Withdrawals do not count toward the 18-unit limit for Official Withdrawals.

D. Withdrawal reasons that are not accepted: while individual circumstances may be considered on their own merit, the following reasons are generally considered within the student's control and therefore would not be considered a serious and compelling reason for withdrawal after the deadline

- Change of major or minor
- Not liking the course material, instructional method, or instructor
- Not doing well in the class, or grade not as high as anticipated
- Taking too many units or being too busy to do the work
- Not knowing how or when to drop

IV. Unauthorized Withdrawal (WU): The grading symbol "WU" indicates that an enrolled student did not follow the procedures to officially withdraw from the course and also failed to complete course requirements. It is used when, in the opinion of the instructor,

completed assignments or course activities or both were insufficient to make normal evaluation of academic performance possible. For purposes of grade point average and progress point computation this symbol is equivalent to an "F".

- A. Petition for Grade Forgiveness of First "WU" Grade(s): In the first semester that an undergraduate student receives one or more "WU" grades at Cal Poly Humboldt, the student may petition the Office of the Registrar to apply grade forgiveness to the "WU" grade. With grade forgiveness, the "WU" grade remains on the student transcript, however the grade(s) are excluded from the GPA calculations. 1. The student may petition the Office of the Registrar at any time prior to degree awarding. After the degree has been awarded, petitions will not be considered.
- B. Petitions will only be considered for the first term a student receives one or more "WU" grades at Cal Poly Humboldt. Petitions will not be permitted in subsequent semesters and does not apply to grades received at other institutions.
- C. These units will not be considered "repeat units" as specified in systemwide repeat policy (undergraduate students may still repeat up to 16 semester units with grade forgiveness, plus an additional 12 units with grade averaging). 4. Faculty advisors and professional advisors should inform themselves of the petition for grade forgiveness policy and share that information with advisees, when appropriate.

Related Policies:

[Resolution24-09-10-APCPASSEDAPPROVED.pdf \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

[Resolution on Withdrawal After Census Policy.docx \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

[Revision of Resolution19-08-09-EP 2nd Reading.docx \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

[Resolution 22-14/15-APC Decoupling Drop/Add from Census \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

Expiration Date: Does not Expire

History (required)

Academic Policy Committee: 04/12/2022

Reviewed by University Senate: 04/16/2022

Approved by Provost: 04/27/2022

Policy on Issues Related to Withdrawing from Courses

Applies to: Faculty Staff Student

Month/Year Posted: Oct 2026~~2~~

Policy Number: VPAA 22-09

Applies to:

Faculty, Staff and Students.

Supersedes:

[Resolution24-09-10-APCPASSEDAPPROVED.pdf \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

[Resolution on Withdrawal After Census Policy.docx \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

[Revision of Resolution19-08-09-EP 2nd Reading.docx \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

[Resolution 22-14/15-APC Decoupling Drop/Add from Census \(humboldt.edu\)](#)

Purpose of the Policy:

Prior Senate resolutions established rules around withdrawing from courses at different deadlines (e.g., add/drop, Withdrawal, etc.). This policy aggregates all of the policies centered on the withdrawing/dropping of courses in one document . It also builds in flexibility if a given deadline happens to fall on a holiday/campus closure.

Authority: CSU Grading, Repetition of Courses, Academic Renewal, and Appeals Policy (EO 1037)

Effective ~~Fall Semester 2022~~ Spring Semester 2027

To further clarify when and how students may withdraw from one, some or all classes, this campus policy is intended to serve as an addendum for the systemwide policy on CSU Grading, Repetition of Courses, Academic Renewal, and Appeals (formerly known as Executive Order 1037). Cal Poly Humboldt has provided the following definitions as addendum to the systemwide policy:

- 1) defines “serious and compelling” withdrawal,
- 2) defines “catastrophic” withdrawal,
- 3) defines an internal grade “WC” for these catastrophic withdrawals,
- 4) establishes a Grade Point Average (GPA) forgiveness policy for undergraduate students in the first semester they receive Withdrawal Unauthorized (WU) grades at Cal Poly Humboldt, providing students a one-time opportunity to minimize the GPA impact of Unauthorized Withdrawals and giving them the chance to improve their GPA by engaging with university procedures and resources, and learning how to navigate the official withdrawal process for future semesters if needed

Students are responsible for adding or dropping the correct courses on their schedules prior to the Add/Drop Deadline. After the Add/Drop Deadline students are required to follow university withdrawal procedures by filing a request with the Office of the Registrar, whether the student has ever attended classes or not. Requests to withdraw will only be approved with a “serious and compelling” or “catastrophic” reason with supporting documentation. A student is not allowed to withdraw during the last five weeks of instruction or later except in cases where the cause of withdrawal is due to circumstances clearly beyond the student’s control (“catastrophic”) and the assignment of an incomplete grade is not practicable.

Faculty are strongly encouraged to provide students, whenever possible, with graded feedback in every course before the Add/Drop Deadline. Drops and withdrawals often carry serious academic and financial consequences, including delaying time to degree, loss of momentum, impacts on full/part-time status for fees and/or financial aid eligibility, veterans benefits, on-campus housing, athletic eligibility, and visa status for international students. Faculty members are urged to remind students to consult with an advisor as well as the Financial Aid office before withdrawing from a class. Students who receive financial aid funds are urged to consult with Financial Aid prior to withdrawing from the university regarding any required return or repayment of grant or loan assistance received, which may result in a debt owed to the institution and negatively impact eligibility to receive financial aid in future semesters. International students here on an F1 or J1 visa are urged to consult with their immigration advisor prior to any drops or withdrawals regarding the effects these changes may have on their immigration status

Definitions and related policy

I. Add/Drop Deadline: the ~~first business day of week 3~~ ~~Monday after the second week of classes~~ of the regular semester at 11:59pm PST/**PDT**. Students are responsible for ensuring the correct courses are on their official class schedules in their Student Center prior to the Add/Drop Deadline.

II. Drops: Students are allowed to disenroll (drop) a course before the add/drop via Student Center. A student who formally drops prior to the Add/Drop Deadline will have only an appropriate date of withdrawal (no coursework) appear on the academic record for that term.

A. Note: the university may disenroll a student from a course administratively, when enrollment in a course is contingent upon attendance (see the Faculty

Initiated Drop for Non-Attendance Policy, 27-15/16-APC), satisfying enrollment requisites, related deadlines, etc

III. Official Withdrawal (W): The grading symbol “W” on the transcript indicates the student was permitted to withdraw from the course after the deadline with an approved and documented reason. This grading symbol carries no connotation of quality of student performance and is not used in calculating grade point average. Students who find it necessary to withdraw after enrolling must follow official withdrawal procedures by filing a request with the Office of the Registrar.

A. Withdrawal Limits: Students may withdraw from no more than 18 semester units of coursework at Cal Poly Humboldt.

B. Serious & Compelling Withdrawal:

1. Timeline: Serious & compelling withdrawals are considered after the Add/Drop Deadline through 11:59 PM PST/PDT on **the first business day** ~~Monday~~ of the 11th week of classes.

2. “Serious and compelling” reasons: these are typically outside a student’s control and generally limited to the following: mental and physical health, loss of care for dependents, inappropriate behavior of someone else in the classroom, and serious reversal in the student’s financial situation. The Office of the Registrar will review the student’s request and documentation. If the student provides sufficient documentation, the faculty members teaching the course will be notified that a student has petitioned for a Withdrawal and be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Registrar’s office if necessary.

C. Catastrophic Withdrawal:

1. Timeline: Catastrophic withdrawals are considered after the Add/Drop Deadline through the end of instruction. This is the only category of withdrawal permitted in the last five weeks of instruction.

2. Catastrophic Reasons: these are typically events clearly beyond a student's control, preventing attendance, and in cases where the assignment of an Incomplete grade is not practicable. Examples include severe medical and/or mental health conditions, being called to military service, consequences of the death of a close family member, or being directly impacted by natural disaster. Verifiable documentation of the event must be provided to the Registrar's office, who will determine whether or not a Catastrophic Withdrawal is appropriate. If the student provides sufficient documentation to the Registrar's office, faculty members teaching the course will be notified that a student has petitioned for a Catastrophic Withdrawal and be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Registrar's office if necessary. Note: internally, the student's grade will be recorded as a catastrophic withdrawal, "WC", as Catastrophic Withdrawals do not count toward the 18-unit limit for Official Withdrawals

3. Withdrawal reasons that are not accepted: while individual circumstances may be considered on their own merit, the following reasons are generally considered within the student's control and therefore would not be considered a serious and compelling reason for withdrawal after the deadline

- Change of major or minor
- Not liking the course material, instructional method, or instructor
- Not doing well in the class, or grade not as high as anticipated
- Taking too many units or being too busy to do the work
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IV. Unauthorized Withdrawal (WU): The grading symbol "WU" indicates that an enrolled student did not follow the procedures to officially withdraw from the course and also failed to complete course requirements. It is used when,

in the opinion of the instructor, completed assignments or course activities or both were insufficient to make normal evaluation of academic performance possible. For purposes of grade point average and progress point computation this symbol is equivalent to an "F".A.

A. Petition for Grade Forgiveness of First "WU" Grade(s): In the first semester that an undergraduate student receives one or more "WU" grades at Cal Poly Humboldt, the student may petition the Office of the Registrar to apply grade forgiveness to the "WU" grade. With grade forgiveness, the "WU" grade remains on the student transcript, however the grade(s) are excluded from the GPA calculations.¹ The student may petition the Office of the Registrar at any time prior to degree awarding. After the degree has been awarded, petitions will not be considered.

2. Petitions will only be considered for the first term a student receives one or more "WU" grades at Cal Poly Humboldt. Petitions will not be permitted in subsequent semesters and does not apply to grades received at other institutions.

3. These units will not be considered "repeat units" as specified in systemwide repeat policy (undergraduate students may still repeat up to 16 semester units with grade forgiveness, plus an additional 12 units with grade averaging). 4. Faculty advisors and professional advisors should inform themselves of the petition for grade forgiveness policy and share that information with advisees, when appropriate.

Expiration Date: does not expire.

History (required) Issued: 04/27/2022

Revised: ~~**/**/2026MM/DD/YYYY~~

Edited: MM/DD/YYYY

Reviewed: MM/DD/YYYY

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Sense of the Senate Resolution on
Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California

02-26/27-Ex – September 29, 2026 – Second Reading

WHEREAS: With Humboldt State University's transformation into California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, the number of non-Native researchers who want to work with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California is expected to rise; and

WHEREAS: Research should be a community-led initiative with aligning goals of supporting tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and cultural preservation; and

WHEREAS: In a good faith effort to avoid potential harms to Indigenous Communities and to recognize past harms to Indigenous Communities, a document (attached) was created collaboratively for the [Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California](#); and

WHEREAS: The document describes basic expectations for non-Native researchers who want to engage in ethical research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California; and

WHEREAS: These basic expectations are necessary; they are not, in and of themselves, sufficient for ethical research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California; and

WHEREAS: The following frameworks outlined in the “Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California” should be considered a “floor,” not a “ceiling.”; and

WHEREAS: The document does not claim to address all people, communities, or Tribes of Northwestern California; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt supports the integration of this document as necessary ongoing professional development for faculty, staff, and students engaged in scholarly research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California and on their tribal lands; and

RESOLVED, That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt urges the Sponsored Programs Foundation to continue integrating this document into the review processes for human subjects research; and

RESOLVED, That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt urges the Office of Institutional Compliance to integrate this document into the review process for human subject and animal subject research; and

RESOLVED, That the attached document and resolution be distributed to

- The General Faculty of Cal Poly Humboldt
- The President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Richard Carvajal*;
- Special Assistant to the President for Tribal & Community Engagement, *Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond*
- Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, *Shawna Young*
- Associate Vice President for Research, *Kacie Flynn*
- Director of the Office of Institutional Compliance, *Nino Dzotsenidze*
- General Faculty President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Chris Harmon*
- Staff Council Chair of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Kathy Hudson*
- President of Associated Students of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Ayan Cabot*
- President of the Cal State Student Association, *Artur Gafurov*
- Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, *Adam Swenson*

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution on Policy on Grade Modes

03-26/27-APC — September 29, 2026 — First Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the President the approval of the Cal Poly Humboldt policy on Grade Modes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this policy be implemented during the fall 2027 term such that ABC/NC becomes a possible optional grade mode, and mandatory ABC/NC courses may be proposed through our curricular processes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That implementation of this policy must include a warning to students that taking courses with grade modes of CR/NC or ABC/NC may have considerable implications for those receiving financial aid, Veterans benefits, NCAA student athletics, and others. Students considering optional grade modes *will* be provided with links to the appropriate student support offices for help navigating their choices.

RATIONALE: This policy establishes an ABC/NC grade mode for eligible courses and updates campus rules for optional CR/NC, including term and degree-unit limits, eligibility, grade conversion, and petition procedures.

The optional ABC/NC grading mode provides a student-centered grading option that reduces punitive GPA consequences for near-passing performance while preserving academic standards, departmental prerogatives, and compliance with CSU and Title 5 regulations. The policy clarifies when and how students may elect Optional ABC/NC or CR/NC, how grades convert, and what limits and considerations should be taken into account.

Policy on Grade Modes

VPAA-XX

Office of The Registrar

Applies to: Faculty, staff, & students

Supersedes: Current catalog language on optional CR/NC limits and processes, as amended by this policy upon approval and publication.

Purpose of the Policy: This policy establishes an optional ABC/NC grade mode for eligible courses and updates campus rules for optional CR/NC, including term and degree-unit limits, eligibility, grade conversion, and petition procedures.

The optional ABC/NC grading mode provides a student-centered grading option that reduces punitive GPA consequences for near-passing performance while preserving academic standards, departmental prerogatives, and compliance with CSU and Title 5 regulations. The policy clarifies when and how students may elect Optional ABC/NC or CR/NC, how grades convert, and what limits and considerations should be taken into account.

Definitions:

Grade modes: Courses at Cal Poly Humboldt are offered with the following grade modes:

- Mandatory letter grades (A-F)
- Mandatory Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
- Mandatory ABC/No Credit (ABC/NC)
- Optional grade mode

Credit (CR): A grade of CR indicates satisfactory achievement of course requirements. Does not affect GPA calculation.

No Credit (NC): NC indicates unsatisfactory achievement of course requirements. For an undergraduate, unclassified post-baccalaureate, and second bachelor's degree student, *No Credit* is equivalent to a D+ or lower. For a graduate student who is in a master's degree program or a credential-seeking

student, NC is equivalent to a C+ or lower. This grade is not used in grade point calculation. Although NC does not affect GPA calculation, some universities and many graduate schools interpret an NC grade as an F.

ABC/No Credit (ABC/NC): ABC/NC is a grade mode in which an undergraduate, unclassified post-baccalaureate, or second bachelor's degree student may earn a letter grade anywhere between an A and C- in a course, or receive an NC when the assigned grade is **below** a C-.

Optional Grade Mode: If a course is designated to have an optional grade mode, students may choose any of the defined grade modes above for a course in their Student Center during the first 11 weeks of classes. Graduate and Credential seeking students may not choose ABC/NC as an **optional** grade mode.

Policy Details:

1. CR/NC

- A. Students are limited to one **optional CR/NC or optional ABC/NC** graded course per semester.
- B. Courses used to fulfill major requirements *may not* be taken on an **optional CR/NC** basis.
- C. No more than 24 semester units of CR/NC courses (both mandatory and optional) taken at Cal Poly Humboldt will count towards a bachelor's degree.
- D. Graduate students can choose **optional CR/NC** only for courses *not required* by their approved program. No more than one-third of master's degree courses may be taken CR/NC credit.

2. ABC/NC

- A. Students are limited to one **optional CR/NC or optional ABC/NC** graded course per semester.
- B. Undergraduate, unclassified post-baccalaureate, and second bachelor's degree students may use this grading mode for both elective courses and major/minor courses if the course is designated as **optional** grading mode.
- C. There is no limit to the number of successful units of ABC/NC courses taken at Cal Poly Humboldt which may count towards a bachelor's degree.
- D. As there are implications for students receiving financial aid or veterans benefits, participating in NCAA athletics, and potentially

other special circumstances, programs should think carefully about making the grade mode for a course **mandatory** ABC/NC or CR/NC.

- E. Graduate and Credential seeking students may not choose ABC/NC as an optional grade mode.

- 3. Grade Point Values and GPA Calculation:** Letter grades A-F and “WU” (unauthorized withdrawal) are used for GPA calculation. Grades are followed by their assigned grade point values. A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0.0); WU (0.0). AU, CR, I, NC, RD, RP and W are not used in GPA calculation. I and RP may convert to grades that are used to calculate GPA.
- 4. Academic Standings (Administrative Academic Notice):** Students who receive more than 21 “NC” units may be placed on Administrative Academic Notice/Disqualification.

Students should always consult an academic advisor when considering changing the grade mode for a course. There may be considerable implications for financial aid eligibility, veterans benefits, NCAA regulations, and more. For further information regarding the complexities of Optional Grade modes, such as ABC/NC and CR/NC, please contact the Financial Aid Office, the Advising Center and visit the Advising Canvas Page.

Related Policies: (if any; optional)

Expiration Date: (if any; optional)

History (required)

All changes must be listed chronologically in the format below, including all edits and reviews. Note when the policy name or number changes. Note if an edit or revision date is exclusively for the policy section or the procedure section:

Academic Policy Committee: MM/DD/YYYY

Reviewed by University Senate: MM/DD/YYYY

Approved by Provost/President: MM/DD/YYYY

Template Updated: February 28, 2024