

Credit Recovery in North Carolina

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Q. What is credit recovery?

A. The term “credit recovery” will be used to refer to a block of instruction that is less than the entirety of the Standard Course of Study for that course. Credit recovery, therefore, delivers a subset of the Standard Course of Study or blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student’s mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion.

2. Q. How is credit recovery recorded on the transcript?

A. Credit recovery only serves to recover the credit toward graduation and does not affect a student’s grade point average (GPA). Therefore, the credit recovery course will appear on the transcript with either a “P” for pass or “F” for fail. Neither of these marks will affect the student’s GPA. If the credit recovery course is passed, then the transcript will show a unit of credit for the course which will count toward graduation. The record of the student originally failing the course will remain on the transcript with the failing grade associated with it and will continue to impact the student’s GPA.

3. Q. Shouldn’t the student’s GPA be affected by taking a credit recovery course? If a student has originally failed a course and recovers it, it seems only fair that the student’s GPA be impacted.

A. Credit recovery has been defined as just that, recovering a credit; that is its sole purpose. If a student wants to both recover the credit and increase his or her GPA, then the student should repeat the entire course to achieve those goals. The purpose of credit recovery is to earn credits toward graduation.

4. Q. Are there other situations when a student should consider retaking the entire course rather than using credit recovery?

A. Yes. Counselors should examine closely the postsecondary plans of students interested in credit recovery to see if it is appropriate for the student given their unique plans and the course under consideration. Here are a few examples where a student will need to retake the entire course rather than use credit recovery: A student who is wishing to receive community college articulated credit for a CTE course should retake the entire course. Likewise, students looking to enter a Health Occupations program who have failed biology will need to retake the course and not use credit recovery if the postsecondary institution of interest requires a minimum grade average in biology. Additionally, students seeking to raise their GPA, should repeat the course.

5. Q. Will the fact that credit recovery courses are graded on a pass/fail basis negatively impact athletic eligibility in any way?

A. No. Treating credit recovery this way has been reviewed and accepted by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA). NCHSAA has acknowledged that there will be no adverse impact on a student's athletic eligibility.

6. Q. Will the fact that credit recovery courses are graded on a pass/fail basis negatively impact the admission of students into community college and/or the university system?

A. No. The General Administration of the University of North Carolina System and the North Carolina Community College System office have both agreed that the presence of a pass or fail on student's transcript and the general approach to credit recovery as being outlined will not negatively impact a student's admission eligibility into these institutions.

7. Q. Is there a time limit on when a credit recovery course must be taken?

A. No. It is strongly encouraged to place a student in credit recovery for a course as soon as possible after completing the course to minimize learning loss. Best practices suggest that students complete the credit recovery within one year, but there are many factors outside the control of the school which affect the school's ability to meet this expectation.

8. Q. Does a credit recovery course have to be completed within one semester or summer session?

A. Yes, unless there are extenuating circumstances whereby the principal determines an Incomplete is more appropriate. If an Incomplete is awarded, then as soon as the credit recovery is finished, a grade of Pass or Fail will replace the Incomplete for the credit recovery course in the original semester in which it was begun.

9. Q. Can a student repeat a course which they have already passed?

A. At the current time, this is a local decision.

10. Q. If a credit recovery course has an associated End-of-Course (EOC) assessment, does a student have to retake the test?

A. Yes. Students should be administered the associated EOC at the completion of the credit recovery course.

11. Q. When does a student receive credit for a credit recovery course?

A. As soon as the student has completed the credit recovery course and taken the EOC assessment.

12. Q. If a student is taking an EOC associated with a credit recovery course, when does he/she take the test?

A. The EOC assessment associated with credit recovery should be administered no later than 30 days upon the completion of the credit recovery course.

13. Q. Does the EOC count as 20% of the final grade in the credit recovery course?

A. Yes. When calculating the student's "P" (pass) or "F" (fail) grade, the associated EOC score should be included as 20% of the final grade.

14. Q. What should be the content of a credit recovery course?

A. The content should be dictated by the deficiency demonstrated when the student attempted the course the first time. A pre-assessment of the student's understanding of the course material should ideally be administered at the beginning of the course and the credit recovery customized to meet the needs of the individual.

15. Q. Should all credit recovery courses take the same amount of time to complete?

A. No. Credit recovery should be customized to meet the needs of the course and the student's prior knowledge and skills when entering the credit recovery.

16. Q. How should courses be coded in PowerSchool?

A. Local Education Agencies will develop a code within the context of the existing course coding structure that will designate a course as credit recovery using the course code attribute. Credit recovery is located in the extended data schema and is a dropdown box. The credit recovery course number will be the same as the original course number, with the exception of the last three digits.

17. Q. Is there a limit on how many credit recovery courses a student may take in his or her high school career?

A. No. A local school board may not limit the number of credit recovery courses taken by a student prior to graduation.