

## **Policy on Grading, Notations and Academic Engagement Fall 2020: FAQ's**

### **Q: What is the policy on Grading, Notations, and Academic Engagement?**

**A:** All students are expected to actively engage in learning. The “academic engagement” portion of the current Grading, Notations, and Academic Engagement policy requires that all twelve Connecticut State Community Colleges drop students from classes when there is no evidence of active participation.

There are deadlines for each class by which students must demonstrate they have begun their coursework. For semester-long (15-week) classes, students have two (2) weeks, or 14 calendar days to demonstrate active participation. Instructors shall determine which students have met the engagement requirement and report this information to the Registrar’s Office through use of our student information system (Banner Self-Service). The Registrar’s Office will be responsible for dropping students for whom there was no evidence of active participation by the designated deadline.

The policy can be found [here](#) in its entirety.

### **Q: What does “academic engagement” mean?**

**A:** Academic engagement is the active learning of the specific subject matter and/or skills integral to each class. CT Community College Faculty/Instructors will determine whether students’ academic activities meet the standard of academic engagement.

Academic engagement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Attending a class where there is opportunity for direct interaction between students and instructors;
  - This can be physically attending a class on-campus -or- attending a scheduled/synchronous/ LRON class

*Note: the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) does not require institutions to be attendance taking, and institutions are not considered attendance taking for Title IV (financial aid) purposes.*

- Submitting an academic assignment;
- Taking an exam, quiz, survey, or other assessment;
- Engaging in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction;
- Participating in an online discussion about academic matters; or
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course.

**Q: What doesn't meet the requirements of academic engagement?**

**A:** Not all student activities involve learning subject matter and fulfilling course requirements. The following are examples of what does NOT count as academic engagement:

- Logging into an online course without active participation;
- Participating in academic counseling or advising; or
- Engaging in clubs and other student activities not directly related to coursework.

**Q: What happens if instructors do not have evidence of student engagement by the deadline?**

**A:** Instructors must report the engagement of each student on the class roster by the established deadlines. A notation of “H” indicates active engagement. A notation of “NP” indicates “Never Participated.”

Students without evidence of active participation are then dropped from each class where instructors have indicated lack of engagement via the “NP” notation. All tuition and fees will be dropped from the applicable courses as well. These courses will not display on student transcripts.

Students who are dropped from class(es) are not permitted to attend those courses or access the learning management system for the applicable course(s).

**Q: What if some classes haven't begun by the deadline or begin just before the typical semester deadline for reporting academic engagement?**

**A:** Some courses begin significantly later than the first week of a semester. The evaluation of academic engagement must still occur for those classes. Late-start classes will have alternative deadlines, giving students ample time to demonstrate active participation in those courses.

**Q: How will being dropped from a course(s) affect a student's financial aid for the semester?**

**A:** Students that are dropped from course(s) due to the assignment of the NP are not eligible to receive financial aid of any kind for the affected course(s). Dropped classes also affect enrollment reporting and may impact when students must begin repayment on any previously borrowed student loans.

**Q: How will being dropped from a course(s) impact a student's Veterans educational benefits?**

**A:** Students that are dropped from course(s) cannot receive Veterans educational benefits for the dropped course(s). The Veterans Certifying Official can only sign off on courses that you are actively engaged and enrolled in. A previous certification will be adjusted to reflect active academic engagement.

**Q: Why do the CT community colleges have this policy?**

**A:** To maintain eligibility to participate in federal financial aid programs, Connecticut State Community Colleges must verify the academic engagement of each student in each registered course. This verification must be completed by the predetermined census date of each traditional semester, as well as during periods of enrollment shorter than the traditional 15-week semester (i.e. summer terms).

The purpose of this policy is to identify students who have enrolled in coursework but have not demonstrated academic engagement in their courses. This practice will help the colleges report official college enrollment and meet the regulatory standard of compliance. Additionally, this practice will provide for both graduation and retention rates to be more reflective of a true student population.