Dear TTU PreLaw Student,

I've been receiving a lot of great questions about how the Credit/No Credit grading policy will impact law school admissions. This memo will provide some general guidance on this issue. If after reading this e-mail you have follow-up questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at Jordan.ryan@ttu.edu for an appointment. I'm happy to schedule an appointment with you to discuss your unique situation.

First, we need to understand how grades are converted when you apply to law school. When you apply to law school, you have to submit your undergrad transcripts to the Credential Assembly Service (or CAS), a part of LSAC. Depending on your academic history, your LSAC GPA (the number law schools will use to review your application) might actually be somewhat higher or lower than your degree GPA. Here is an easier to read summary of LSAC’s transcript summarization policies — the formulas by which LSAC determines your GPA for the purposes of law school applications.

It's important to note that, based on the explanations provided in LSAC's transcript summarization policies, that "any grade notation that signifies failure (such as No Credit, No Credit/Fail, Not Passing, Incomplete, Incomplete/Fail, Withdraw/Fail, Unsatisfactory, Fail, etc.) is converted to zero on the 4.0 scale and is included in the calculation of the GPA, even if the issuing school considers the grade to be nonpunitive. Failure is defined as credit attempted but not earned." In other words, if you receive an "NC" for a course on your transcript, LSAC will calculate this as if you've earned an 'F' in the course during the GPA conversion process.

On the other hand, passing grades such as "Credit" are excluded from the GPA conversion, so a "Credit" grade would not impact your GPA. Of course, you might be wondering, "What will law schools think if they see a "Credit" grade on my transcript? How will they interpret this when reviewing my application?" To help answer this question, I reached out to Danielle Saavedra - Assistant Dean of Admissions at the TTU Law School - for help answering this question. Here's what she said:

"After speaking with the dean about this topic, we have all agreed that we will continue to do a holistic review of their application - i.e. we will not question their academic profile if they choose (or their school mandates) P/F or C/NC. We understand how unprecedented the current situation is, how some classes have not transitioned online as smoothly as others (to no fault of the student), how some students may lack the resources and conditions that would be conducive to their normal study routines, etc. We are willing to review the student's full file and give them the benefit of the doubt for this semester."

Please e-mail me if you would like to schedule an appointment with me to discuss this issue further, please e-mail me at Jordan.ryan@ttu.edu to schedule an appointment.

Sincerely,

Jordan Ryan, M.A., M.Ed
TTU PreLaw Program Coordinator