Math E-15 Credit Status FAQ

Should I sign up for graduate credit? The graduate credit option is intended for students who are current or aspiring K-12 math teachers, especially those who wish to earn a degree through the Extension School’s Master’s in Mathematics for Teaching program. Graduate credit students will participate in a weekly seminar in which they will design and teach a math lesson. The details of the seminar are explained in the graduate credit documents posted on our course website.

If I already hold an undergraduate (or graduate) degree, must I sign up for graduate credit? NO! Regardless of whether you already hold a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, a doctorate degree or no degree, unless you are a current or aspiring K-12 math teacher as described in the previous question, you should almost certainly sign up for undergraduate credit. If you are taking this course as a prerequisite for or as preparation for entrance into college or into a graduate school of business, medicine, dentistry, architecture, engineering, public health or the like, then you should choose undergraduate credit.

What do I need to do in order to get an official letter grade on my transcript? If you sign up for either undergraduate credit or graduate credit, you will receive a letter grade on your transcript.

What should I do if I want to learn calculus but do not want to receive a letter grade? If you sign up for noncredit status, you can participate in the course to whatever extent you choose, submitting all, some, or none of the homework assignments and taking both, one, or neither of the midterm exams and receiving the usual feedback on any assignments you submit and any midterm exams that you take. Harvard does not allow noncredit students to take the final exam in a formal setting, but I will post a blank copy of the final as well as the solutions within Canvas so that you can take it on your own and check your answers if you wish. If you are a noncredit student, you will have access to all the course materials but will simply not receive a letter grade on your transcript.

Where can I find more information? Harvard has more details on credit options at http://www.extension.harvard.edu/tuition-enrollment/course-registration/choosing-credit-status and more details on the Master’s in Mathematics for Teaching degree at http://www.extension.harvard.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/mathematics-teaching-degree.

I hope some of you will find this information useful.

Please feel free to email me (etowne@fas.harvard.edu) with any questions about credit status or the course in general.