



**Temporary Changes to Course Grading Policy
Faculty Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: Is the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option available for all courses?

A: All undergraduate and graduate courses will have the S/U option, except for those courses where accreditation requirements limit that possibility.

Q. What counts as “Satisfactory”? Anything other than an “F”?

A: Faculty can determine the criteria for earning the S grade based on the nature of the course and the knowledge that an S will fulfill requirements. Thus, if fulfilling requirements for that course requires a certain grade, they should grade accordingly.

Q: Will students be able to count this course toward prerequisites or degree requirements, if they select the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option?

A: Yes. For that reason, please consider that factor in determining your grading criteria for Satisfactory. If your course is a prerequisite that must be met with a “C” or better, then it might make sense to set the Satisfactory criteria to match what you would expect for a “C”. If not, then it might make sense to set the Satisfactory lower than that, but this is your decision for your given course. If multiple faculty are teaching different sections of the same course, faculty are advised to consult with the appropriate coordinator in their College or School to assure consistency in allowing the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option and set the same criteria for the Satisfactory grade.

Q: What grade will actually appear on a student’s transcript, and how will it impact their GPA?

A: Grades will appear as an “S” (satisfactory) or as a “U” (unsatisfactory). Neither will have an impact on the student’s GPA.

Q: Will students need advisor approval?

A: No, students need only complete [this form](#) prior to the deadline. Students are encouraged to consult with an advisor to determine if this option is appropriate for their circumstances. For example, if they need to raise their GPA to meet a criterion level for the program or to remove themselves from probation, electing this option may not be the best choice. Certain graduate and professional schools may not look favorably on S/U grades. The request form will require students to acknowledge that they have discussed the option with their advisor and understand the consequences.

Q: Will faculty's option to assign Incomplete (I) grade to students be affected?

A: No. Faculty will still have the option of grading students who do not select the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading in their course to be assessed as "Incomplete" and allow the student to meet the requirements in a future semester. Faculty should inform students of these grading options.

Q: Can I provide advising to students on how the selection of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option will affect their financial aid, federal grants, student loans, etc.?

A: Each student's situation is very different and a one-size-fits-all recommendation cannot be provided. A student will need to discuss the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option with appropriate personnel before making the decision.