

## FAQs for Advising Students with S/U grading option

Spring 2020

Updated 6/3/2020

**\*\*\*Updates / Changes from the previous version from 4/16 are highlighted in yellow\*\*\***

Colorado State University Fort Collins and CSU Online are implementing an S/U grading practice for spring 2020 only. Following the end of semester grade posting for spring semester 2020, students will be able to request a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade rather than traditional letter grade up until June 5th for any course taken in this semester. The S/U policy applies to all spring 2020 undergraduate and graduate courses with traditional letter grading. These policies will NOT apply to students in first, second, and third year Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine program. Fourth Year DVM student *can* elect S/U grading.

This practice will replace any previously published restrictions on use of S/U grading, making it an option for all students, undergraduate and graduate, for spring 2020. ***All students, and especially students on probation and those seeking competitive majors, are strongly encouraged to consult with their Academic Success Coordinator, academic advisor, faculty advisor or the Graduate School before making a decision.***

### Questions to Consider:

- Which classes should be taken S/U vs. traditional grading?
  - Students can choose class by class which ones will be S/U or traditional.
  - Students interested in increasing their GPA can choose traditional grading for courses that will do so positively while choosing S/U option for those that might negatively impact their GPA.
  - Students should also consider pre-requisites for courses and if an S/U grade will qualify as meeting a pre-requisite.
    - An S grade is equivalent to a “C” or higher; only courses with a “B/B-” grade requirement will need an override for registration
  - Students earning a “D” can consider the traditional grade if they are more interested in the passing grade rather than the impact on their GPA.
  - No credit is awarded for a “U” grade and it will not count towards graduation as it is considered unsatisfactory.
  - S/U grades do not impact GPA. Credit is earned for “S” grades.
- When will students be able to choose the S/U grading option?
  - RO is developing a page on RamWeb for students to choose that is scheduled to be available May 20 to June 5.
  - After June 5, students will be able to request the change to S/U or back to letter grades by contacting the Office of the Registrar ([registrarsoffice@colostate.edu](mailto:registrarsoffice@colostate.edu)). These requests can be received for Spring 2020 semester until the student graduates.
- Is a student considering a competitive major here at CSU?
  - Pre-requisites, grade, and GPA requirements for programs / classes should be considered including what impact an S/U grade would have.

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- A new document has been put together by the Undeclared advising team to share information from the competitive major departments and is available in the [Teams Folder](#) to help advisors/ASCs guide students.
- Are students considering graduate or professional school after graduation?
  - Graduate / Professional school admissions requirements may require students to earn a certain grade or higher in specific classes. S/U grades may not satisfy the requirements.
  - Students should refer to those schools for guidance on specific admission requirements.
- Can an S/U grade be used to satisfy Repeat / Delete?
  - Yes, an S/U grade can be used to satisfy Repeat / Delete. However, neither the old grade or the new grade will be used in the student's GPA calculation because S/U grades do not count in the GPA and the old grade is removed.
  - Students who are using Repeat / Delete to boost their GPA may want to consider the traditional grade.
  - Considerations for major entrance requirements, pre-requisites, or admission to graduate or professional school should also be made.
- Can S/U grades be used for classes that only met during the first half of the semester (i.e.: 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week classes)?
  - No, appeals would need to be submitted for courses completed prior to spring break.  
**(Note: This is a reversal from the previous document dated 3/31.)**
- Do S/U grades have an impact on student Financial Aid?
  - Financial aid is often a package that includes multiple pieces (i.e.: loans, scholarships, grants, etc.). S/U grading may affect these components differently and so it is important for students to contact the Office of Financial Aid via email when considering how S/U grading might affect their package.
  - "U" and "F" grades as well as W's are not considered passing and can impact satisfactory academic progress because they are attempted credits.
- A student is considering transferring, should they ask for any S/U grades?
  - The student should refer to the transfer institution. An S/U grade indicates a score of C or better in the class, but final transfer will be up to the receiving institution.

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- A student is struggling in some or all of their classes, should they take the S/U grading option?
  - Students have until June 5 to make this call.
  - If students identify that they are struggling before May 8, they could consider course withdrawal for the classes in which they are struggling; or, university withdrawal if they are struggling in *all* their classes.
  - As with all course and university withdrawals, advisors should remind students that there may be financial implications (i.e.: no refund, drop below full-time student status, etc.)
- A student on academic probation is unsure if they will do well enough to get off probation, should they consider the S/U option?
  - A new policy for Spring 2020 has been released—[Click here](#)—Highlights below:
    - To provide a positive outcome for all students we are creating a policy to hold students harmless from the challenges associated with moving to remote/online education in the middle of the term and also to hold students harmless from any unintended consequences of selecting S/U grading, should they choose that option before June 5th.
    - The Faculty Council on Scholastic Standards and the Provost's Office decided that students will continue with the Fall 2019 academic standing after Spring 2020 unless they increase their cumulative GPA to a 2.0 or above.
  - Any traditional grades a student earns in Spring 2020 will impact their cumulative GPA which could impact their ability to raise it above 2.0 in future semesters.
    - If they are earning an A or B in a class, keeping the traditional grade may make the most sense to help improve GPA.
    - S/U grades can be chosen on a class by class basis so students are able to keep the traditional letter grades for the classes in which they are doing well and take the S/U for classes in which they are not doing as well so as not to negatively impact their GPA.
  - Students should talk with their advisor individually about each class and the implications of which type of grade they should take given other factors including GPA, competitive majors, transfer, etc.
  - Before May 8, students can also consider an individual course or university withdrawal.
  - If they are earning or have earned a C grades, students will want to consider options and take into account other grades and other implications that have cumulative GPA implications (i.e.: pre-requisites, controlled major requirements, graduate or professional school requirements, etc.)
  - Before May 8, if they are earning a D or F, they may want consider course withdrawal or university withdrawal
  - If final grades have already been submitted, they could take a U grade instead of a D or F to minimize the impact on their cumulative GPA. The deadline for requesting a change to an S/U grade is June 5.
  - Students should also consider credit accumulation for this semester and how that might impact their timeline (i.e.: Future grades/credit needed to return to good standing.)
  - Helpful GPA tools:
    - [How a CSU GPA is calculated](#)
    - [GPA Predictor Tool](#) (Must be logged into to AriesWeb)

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- Will CSU accept S/U credit for students transferring into CSU?
  - The Registrar's Office has provided the following guidance: CDHE has reached out and encouraged all Colorado schools to accept Pass/Satisfactory grading. We will be accepting all P (passing) or S (satisfactory) grades in transfer; this applies to Spring 2020 only. For courses where a B or better is required, the student might be asked to provide confirmation from the instructor that they did earn the equivalent of such grade.
  - How S/U grades for transfer students will impact entrance requirements to controlled majors is determined by the major department.
- How will S/U grading impact students using the GI Bill?
  - Lisa Chandler in ALVS recommended that we have any student using GI Bill benefits contact the Veterans Benefit Office before making the shift to S/U grading as there can be implications to their GI benefits.