

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1179

Subject: Provost's Office Proposal for a P/F Grading Option for Spring 2020

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: 4/6/2020

Senate Action:

MOTION: It is moved to support the P/F grading option for Spring 2020.

VOTE: Approved: 24 in Support, 5 Opposed, 1 Abstention.

Response requested:

☐ Approval for placement in University Catalog

☐ Approval for placement in University Regulations

☐ Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual

☒ None (sent as information item)

☐ Other action requested/comments:



Faculty Senate Chair

04/06/20

Date

* * * * *

Administrative review of Senate action (unnecessary for information items):

☐ Reviewed by **VPAA/Provost**. Check ☐ if comments attached

☐ Reviewed by **General Counsel**. Check ☐ if comments attached

Presidential action:

☐ Approve ☐ Reject ☐ Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)

President/Designated Administrative Officer

Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): _____

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE, CARTER 2004, BOX 75.
faculty.senate@unco.edu

Attachment to Senate Action #1179
Approved by the Faculty Senate
April 6, 2020



Version shared with voting members of Faculty Senate 4/01/2020

This proposal is to allow students the option of changing the A-F letter grade for their courses to a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U at UNC is equivalent to Pass/Fail) during this semester. This policy change only applies to courses taught during Spring 2020 where the teaching modality changed from face-to-face instruction to remote learning after courses were underway. It does not apply to courses that were originally scheduled to be delivered online.

Here are the key elements of these changes for the Spring 2020 semester:

- The deadline for students to declare a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade option will be May 1st, the last day of classes.
 - For classes that have a last day other than May 1st, the deadline for declaring the S/U option is the last day of the class. See UNC short term calendar link:
https://insight.unco.edu/ibi_apps/WFServlet?IBIF_ex=UNC/stu207
- Students may change the S/U option back to a letter grade option at any time up to the May 1st deadline.
 - For classes that have a last day other than May 1st, students may change the S/U option back to a letter grade option at any time up to the last day of the class.
- All undergraduate and graduate students in every degree program may opt for a S/U grade, except for those very few classes that require a letter grade.
 - For example, there are some licensure agencies that do not accept S/U grading for specific, required classes.
- Grades of "S" earned in the Spring 2020 semester will satisfy degree requirements and will not be counted against the "S" credit limit in any degree or major, with no exceptions.
- Instructors will not be informed that students have chosen the S/U option for a class. At the end of the semester, the instructor submits letter grades for all students. The letter grade is converted to "S" or "U" by the Office of the Registrar for students who have chosen the S/U option.
- Published prerequisite grades for classes taken in Spring 2020 will still be enforced. After the end of the semester, colleges, schools, and departments/programs will have access to the letter grades that were converted to grades of "S".
 - If a student's letter grade satisfies the prerequisite, the grade of "S" will remain on the transcript and the prerequisite will be fulfilled.

- If the student's letter grade is below the grading standard to satisfy a prerequisite, the grade of "S" will remain on the transcript, but the prerequisite will not be fulfilled.
- Letter grades that are converted to grades of "S" for individual students will not be used for purposes other than prerequisite checking.
- Letter grades that are converted to grades of "S" for graduate students must be a "C" or higher. Specific graduate programs require that students earn a "B-" or higher for courses to count toward their program.
- Graduate students must check with their academic advisor or the Graduate School about electing S/U grades to make sure this is the right choice for them and will not adversely affect their ability to complete their program or, if applicable, their ability to obtain licensure or certification.
- **Students are strongly encouraged to check with their academic advisors and with the Office of Financial Aid about electing S/U grades, to make sure that this is the right choice for them.**
 - Student-athletes need approval from their athletic academic advisor before declaring a pass/fail option. Depending on overall GPA, declaring S/U could affect their NCAA eligibility.
 - Students on academic probation should consult with their academic advisor to determine if the S/U option is appropriate for their respective academic situation. Depending on overall GPA, declaring S/U could affect their ability to get off academic probation and avoid academic suspension.
 - Graduate students on academic probation have 9 credit hours to raise their GPA to above a 3.0. Opting for S/U could affect a graduate student's ability to get off academic probation and avoid program termination.
 - Academic advisors will help guide students considering the S/U option in classes important for meeting their individual goals (for example, licensure or medical school or graduate school application).
- S/U grades do not factor into a student's GPA. However, "U" grades do not count towards graduation requirements.
- Students with concerns about how S/U grades might impact their Satisfactory Academic Progress should review the policy and contact the Office of Financial Aid at ofa@unco.edu or by phone 970-351-4862.
- Students with questions about how S/U grades might impact scholarship eligibility should email ofa.scholarships@unco.edu.