

## **FAQ Regarding Temporary Pass-Satisfactory/Fail-Unsatisfactory Procedure for Undergraduate Students.**

- 1. Why is the university using S/U rather than P/F for Pass/Fail?**

S/U is the CSU equivalent of Pass/Fail. A grade of S (Satisfactory) will mean a Pass (P) and a U (Unsatisfactory) will mean a Fail (F). This is the grading scheme in place at CSU for just this kind of situation.
- 2. I plan to take the S/U option, can I stop doing the work for the class?**

No. You need to complete the work of the class in order to earn a grade of S. Each professor will calculate your grade based upon the course syllabus at the end of the term. If your calculated final grade is a D or higher as outlined in your course syllabus, you will earn an S. If you fail the class, you will earn a grade of U, you will not earn the credits, and you will most likely need to retake the class.
- 3. Will grades of D count as an S?**

Yes, D grades or higher will count for Satisfactory (grade of S)
- 4. Are all courses eligible to do S/U?**

No. There are a small number of exempt courses. Click [here for the list of exempt courses](#).
- 5. What is the deadline to opt in for the S/U option?**

The deadline is Friday April 24, 2020 at 11:59pm.
- 6. How do I opt in for the S/U option?**

Go to the Grades link from your Student tab in CampusNet and select Spring 20. On this page, you will find the link to the Spring 2020 COVID-19 Semester Grading Basis Request. Complete all requested information on the form, including all of your requested course details. If you change your mind, you can also use this form to rescind an earlier request to change to S/U.
- 7. I am taking a Writing Across the Curriculum Course (WAC). I was told I need to earn a C or better for the course to count. Will an S be enough for this course?**

Yes, if you choose the S/U option and earn a D or higher, your grade will be an S and you will earn the WAC credit for the course.
- 8. How does the S/U option affect my GPA?**

Any course with the S/U option will not affect GPA in any way, unless you are repeating a course taken previously (See #23 below). The S will not help your GPA and the U will not hurt your GPA. If you choose all S/U for all your courses, then your cumulative GPA will not change.
- 9. How do I know if I should take the S/U option?**

You should talk with your professor and/or academic advisor. Depending on your current GPA, any grade lower than an A has the potential of decreasing your cumulative GPA, however if you are expecting to earn a D or an F, then taking the S/U option is most likely the best idea. First consider your current cumulative GPA when making this decision. For example,

  - If your current cumulative GPA is above a 3.0, any grade lower than a B could have the potential of lowering your GPA.
  - If your current cumulative GPA is between a 2.0 and a 3.0, any grade of a B- or lower could have the potential of lowering your GPA.

- We encourage you to consult with your instructors and/or advisers when making these decisions.

**10. I plan to go to graduate school, medical school, or law school, is S/U a good option?**

This can be a difficult question to answer, as it may vary greatly depending on the specific program you are looking to apply to. If you know what graduate programs you are hoping to apply to, you are encouraged to reach out to the contact point for that particular program to discuss any impacts that this may have on your graduate application. The best course of action is to consult the academic advisor in your major, a faculty mentor, or contact your college advising office.

**11. I'm taking a course in a sequence and I need a C, B-, or B or better to take the next course? Can I take the S/U option?**

Yes. If you earn a grade of D or better and chose the S/U option, you will earn credit for your current course and be allowed to progress to the next course. If your current course is a pre-requisite for other courses in your academic plan, we strongly advise you to take advantage of academic support services (tutoring, SI, Writing Center, etc.) to assure success in your next class.

**12. My degree program requires a C, B-, or B or better in certain courses, can I take those courses with the S/U option?**

Yes. If you earn a grade of D or better, you will receive a grade of S and it will fulfill the degree requirement.

**13. I'm a College Credit Plus (CCP) student. Can I take the S/U option?**

Yes. You can choose to take your course with the S/U option.

**14. I am an international student, can I take the S/U option?**

You should contact the Center for International Services and Programs for guidance. (intlcenter@csuohio.edu)

**15. I withdrew from a course already, can I now apply for S/U?**

If you withdrew after March 1, 2020, you will need to complete the [Late Add form](#) and get approval from the instructor and your adviser. In some cases, a College Petition will be required and your adviser will provide you guidance. If the Late Add is approved, the S/U request will then need to be completed. Both of these steps will need to be completed by the stated deadline of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**16. My class ended already, can I take the S/U grade option?**

If the class ended prior to March 9, 2020, it is not eligible for the S/U option.

**17. I am on academic warning or academic probation, can I take the S/U option?**

Yes, you can take the S/U option for any eligible courses (see #4 above for a link to the list of courses that are exempt from the S/U option).

**18. Does taking a course S/U affect my ability to be on President's List or Dean's list?**

Yes. Students need to have 16 credits and 12 credits of letter-graded work (not S/U grades) to be eligible for President's List or Dean's List respectively.

**19. Does taking S/U affect my status as graduating with honors (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude)?**

It depends on your GPA. Taking courses with the S/U option does not impact the GPA either positively or negatively (unless you are retaking a course – see #23 below). If you already qualify for graduation with honors, then S/U grades won't affect your status. If you do not yet qualify for graduation with honors, S/U grades won't help you improve your GPA.

**20. I submitted my form for S/U grading and now I changed my mind. What can I do?**

The Grading Basis Request includes an option to rescind an earlier request. See #6 above for more detail. All requests must be submitted before April 24, 2020 (11:59pm).

**21. My tuition is paid by my employer, or a third party payer, can I take the S/U option?**

You should contact your employer or your third party payer to make sure they will pay for the course if you opt for S/U grading.

**22. Will S/U grades put me on academic warning, probation or suspension?**

No. For the spring 2020 term, students will not be placed on academic warning or probation if they were in good standing at the start of the term. If they were already on academic warning or probation at the start of the term, students will not progress to probation or suspension. If you improve your GPA this term by taking regular letter grades, you can return to good academic standing if appropriate.

**23. How does S/U work when I am repeating a course I previously failed or did poorly in?**

A grade of S will replace the previous grade if you pass the class and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly (although the change to your GPA will only result from the removal of the old class from GPA consideration; the S grade itself does not impact your GPA). If you earn a U, then the GPA will stay the same and you will need to repeat the class again.

**24. Can I ask for both S/U and an Incomplete?**

You can apply for the S/U option before April 24<sup>th</sup>. If your circumstances change and you are unable to complete the course, you should have a conversation with your instructor about the appropriateness of an Incomplete. If you are given an Incomplete, and then you subsequently finish the work, your final grade will be an S/U.

**25. Will taking the S/U option negatively impact my federal financial aid?**

No. The federal government assesses students to assure they are making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). SAP depends on having a GPA above 2.0 and passing 67% of the classes enrolled in spring semester.

- **Do grades of S count as passing for SAP? How will the 67% completion ratio for Spring 2020 be calculated?**

Yes, grades of S will count as completing a course successfully. As long as you earn a grade of S in 67% of your classes, your aid will continue.

- **My fall cumulative GPA is not a 2.0, but I earned all S grades for spring, what will happen?**

You will continue to receive financial aid. The fall cumulative GPA will come forward, we will know you passed all your classes and you will continue to receive financial aid.

- **I am new to CSU for Spring 2020, I am taking all my classes with the S/U option, how will my GPA be calculated?**

You will continue to receive aid as long as you earn a grade of S in 67% of your classes. Your GPA will be calculated as a 0.0.

**26. Will taking the S/U option negatively impact a CSU awarded scholarship?**

No. Choosing the S/U option will not impact negatively any renewable scholarship through Cleveland State University.