Temporary Grading Policy for Spring 2020 Semester: Opt-in Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

Considering the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, UWEC students will have the option to obtain a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade for courses that currently allow the option of S/U grades in the Spring 2020 semester. These changes will not apply to subsequent terms. All students will receive a letter grade for any class they take, but also have the option to replace that letter grade with an alternative *S/U grade for courses where this is allowable. S/U grades for this semester will be transcript notated due to the COVID-19 crisis in a way that differentiates them from typical S/U grading. Students are allowed to take as many of their Spring 2020 courses as they would like with the S/U grading option, as long as the courses has not been determined under this temporary policy as ineligible for S/U by a college, department, or program. Students will be able to change to the S/U option after final grades have been given (7-14 days?). Students who decide to continue pursuing a letter grade for a course, and not select the S/U option, do not need to take any action.

Spring 2020 S/U Policy Changes Allowed:

- The option of S/U registration is open only to students with sophomore standing (ALL) or above and a resident GPA of 2.00 or higher
- S/U registration must be designated by the student no later than the approved period for dropping courses with no record. (extended to yet to be determined date after semester ends)
- S/U registration may not be changed to the standard grading system, or vice versa, after the approved period for dropping courses with no record. (extended to yet to be determined date after semester ends)
- When repeating a course initially taken on the S/U basis, the student must also repeat the course on the S/U grade basis (the waiver on this policy would apply only to courses taken during the spring 2020 academic semester)
- A student may carry no more than one course on the optional S/U basis for degree credit in any term of enrollment. (Exception: any student in any term of enrollment may enroll in one or more physical activity course(s) on an S/U basis and still take one other degree credit course on an S/U basis. Certain Education field work courses also require multiple S/U enrollments. The student, however, must be otherwise eligible to take the additional degree credit course on an S/U basis). Because of the degree audit limit of 12 S/U credits, students would be limited to 12 credits of S/U in spring 2020 academic semester (see note below).

Spring 2020 S/U Policy Unchanged:

- The grade of S is equivalent to at least a C or above in the standard grading system; it denotes that the student’s work was satisfactory, and that credit is granted for the course. The grade of S is not computed in the student’s semester and resident GPAs.
- The course must be eligible to be taken on the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade basis.
• A maximum of 12 credits taken on the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade basis can be applied to the minimum 120 credits for graduation. The degree audit will check for 108 credits taken for a grade.

• A maximum of two S/U courses can count toward a comprehensive major and one course toward a standard major. Colleges and departments may place further restrictions on major, minor, or professional programs and sequences, and dean’s list criteria also vary by college.

• Academic Honors & Distinction “Dean’s List” – college maintains its own criteria

Students interested in the Optional Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Policy should:

• Read the details of your college, department, or program’s options for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. (provide link to information)

• Keep in mind that letter grades can be important in admission to a competitive major, improving GPA, meeting prerequisites for upper division courses, advancing to professional/graduate school, maintaining certain types of financial aid and in other circumstances. (provide link to information)

• Contact your faculty and academic advisors to discuss your options — your advisors will need to sign off on your request.

• An online S/U request form will be available (link under the “Registrar’s Office”) that will route information to your advisors for review and approval.

Should more specific considerations be bulleted under this section for students?