

## FAQ Regarding Temporary Pass-Satisfactory/Fail-Unsatisfactory Procedure for Undergraduate Students Spring 2021

### 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. What grades constitute an S and which constitute a U?

Grades of C or better can be converted to the S grade. Grades of D or F can be converted to the U grade. *Please note that if you chose the S/U option for D grades, you will not earn credit for the course and you will likely have to retake the course.*

#### Undergraduate Students Taking Graduate Courses (500- Level)

Undergraduate students requesting the pass/fail option for a 500- level course will receive an S or U as follows:

- A, B+, and B grades will receive a grade of 'S'.
- B-, C and F grades will receive a grade of 'U'.

#### Graduate Students Taking Undergraduate Courses

Graduate students requesting the pass/fail option for a 100-, 200- or 300- level course will receive an S or U as follows:

- A, B+, B, B-, C+, C grades will receive a grade of 'S'.
- D and F grades will receive a grade of 'U'.

Graduate students requesting pass/fail option for a 400- level course will receive an S or U as follows:

- A, B+ and B grades will receive a grade of 'S'.
- B-, C+, C, D and F grades will receive a grade of 'U'.

### 3. Will I know my grade before I need to decide if I want the S/U option?

Yes, for Spring 2021, students will first be able to see their letter grade for the course. Once you see the grade posted in Campusnet, you can then decide if you want the S/U option for the eligible course. Instructions on how to request the S/U option in Campusnet are available [here](#). PLEASE NOTE: Once you make the request for a grade to be S/U, you cannot change your mind. The deadline for choosing the S/U grading option is Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

### 4. How do S/U grades affect my GPA?

Any course with the S/U option will not affect GPA in any way. The S will not help your GPA and the U will not hurt your GPA. If you choose S/U for all your courses, then your cumulative GPA will not change. If you chose S/U for all your courses and it is your first term, your GPA will be 0.00.

**5. How do I opt in for the S/U option?**

Once you see the grade posted in Campusnet, you can then decide if you want the S/U option for the eligible course. Instructions on how to request the S/U option in Campusnet are available [here](#). PLEASE NOTE: Once you make the request for a grade to be S/U, you cannot change your mind. The deadline for choosing the S/U grading option is Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

**6. Do I have to do “all or nothing” for S/U options for my classes?**

No. You can choose each course separately.

**7. Can faculty say “no” to my request for the S/U option?**

No. Faculty will not know which students have chosen the S/U option. They will submit the letter grade you earned and then if you requested the S/U option, it will be converted to S/U after several business days as long as your course is not on the exempt course [list](#).

**8. 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 C or higher as outlined in your course syllabus, you will earn an S. If you earn a grade of D or 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.

**9. Will grades of D count as an S?**

No, D grades will count for Unsatisfactory (grade of U). If you choose the U option, you will not earn credit for the course, and you will most likely need to retake the course. The U grade, however, will not affect your GPA.

**10. 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.

**11. 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 C or higher, your grade will be an S and you will earn the WAC credit for the course.

**12. 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. If this is your first term at CSU and you take all your courses with the S/U option, then your GPA will be 0.0.

**13. 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 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.

For grades of D, if you want to simply earn the credits for the course, then choosing the S/U option is not helpful. If you will need to retake the class anyway, it might be helpful to take the S/U option to help your GPA. In advance of receiving your grades, you should have a discussion with your advisor if earning a D grade is a distinct possibility.

**14. 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.

**15. 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 C 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, unless the course is on the exempt [list](#).

**16. 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 C or better, you will receive a grade of S and it will fulfill the degree requirement, unless the course is on the exempt [list](#).

**17. 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.

**18. 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](mailto:intlcenter@csuohio.edu))

**19. 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 [here](#) for a link to the list of courses that are exempt from the S/U option).

**20. 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.

**21. 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.

**22. 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.

**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 earn a grade of C or better for 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. 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 2021 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 2020 cumulative GPA is not a 2.0, but I earned all S grades for Spring 2021, what will happen?**

You will continue to receive financial aid. The Fall 2020 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 2021, 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 0.00.

**25. 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.