



## Spring 2020 S/U Grading Policy FAQs – College of Sciences Version

(These FAQs include some of the university-wide FAQs shared online plus additional information provided for College of Sciences students and advisors.)

*Updated April 9, 2020*

In response to students' requests, UCF will offer undergraduates the option to select a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) grade or a letter grade (i.e. "opt-in") for eligible Spring 2020 courses. Students will be able to choose this option from April 10 – 27. Transcripts will indicate that the S/U option was made available this semester because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The original grade assigned by the instructor will NOT appear on the transcript if S/U grading is selected by the student.

It is critical to understand how S/U grading may affect you. In some instances, an S/U grade may impact financial aid, degree program requirements and applications to graduate or professional school.

### **What steps should I consider in deciding to opt-in for S/U Grading?**

1. Have a clear, concrete sense of your current grade in each course. You have until 11:59 pm on April 27 to opt-in for S/U grading so if you have assignments or tests that may impact your grade before that date, you may want to delay the decision until you have the best information possible as to your final grade.
2. Understand each requirement of your degree (or minor or certificate) that each of your Spring 20 courses satisfies, including GPAs. If your course satisfies multiple requirements, be sure you understand the minimum grade restrictions of each requirement and how S/U grading would work with each requirement.
3. Carefully read all the FAQ's below.
4. If you need additional support, contact the appropriate advisor:
  - a. Major advisor for major requirements
  - b. COSAS advisor for GEP/GR/ foreign language/university requirements
  - c. Minor advisor for minor requirements
  - d. Certificate advisor for certificate requirements

### **Can my advisor make the decision for me to opt in for S/U Grading?**

No. Your advisor can help in your decision whether to opt for S/U grading. However, it is ultimately your decision to opt in or not. It is your responsibility to be informed of the ramifications of the decision.

## **GRADING SYSTEM AND HOW S/U WORKS**

**What is UCF's grading system?**

UCF uses an alphabetic, plus/minus system to identify student grades and other actions regarding student progress or class attendance as outlined below. Refer to the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) for detailed information.

Grades	Grading Points Per Semester Hour of Credit
A	4.00
A-	3.75
B+	3.25
B	3.00
B-	2.75
C+	2.25
C	2.00
C-	1.75
D+	1.25
D	1.00
D-	0.75
F	0.00
NC	No Credit (replaces the use of D+, D and D- in certain cases)
S	Satisfactory (with credit) satisfactory progress
U	Unsatisfactory (no credit) unsatisfactory progress

### How does S/U work for purposes of meeting prerequisites?

If you choose to select courses for S/U grading:

- Grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+ or C grades submitted by your instructor will convert to a satisfactory (S) grade.
- Grades of C-, D+, D, D-, F or NC will convert to an unsatisfactory (U) grade.

Grade Assigned by Instructor	Converts to	Credit Earned?	Grade Points Earned?	For Purposes of Course Prerequisites or Degree Requirements, this Maps To
A, A-, B+, B, B-, C	S	yes	no	C
C-, D+, D, D-, F, NC	U	no	no	F

**IMPORTANT: An S grade will function like a C (2.0) grade for purposes of meeting prerequisites and requirements. The “S” will not earn you grade points, but you will earn credit.**

If a minimum grade other than just a passing grade is required for course to meet a prerequisite of another course, S/U grading will work similar to the following examples:

Example 1: You are taking Course 1 in Spring 2020. You are planning to take Course 2 in a subsequent term. Course 2 has a prerequisite of a C (2.0) or better in Course 1.

### You opt in for S/U grading.

- If your instructor submits an A grade for Course 1, the A is converted to an S. Because the S maps to a C for purposes of meeting prerequisites, the S meets the prerequisite for Course 2. This works similarly if your instructor assigns an A-, B+, B, B-, C+, or C.
- Your instructor submits a C- (1.75) grade for Course 1. The C- is converted to a U. A U grade does not satisfy prerequisites for any course. *Note: in this example, if you had not opted in for S/U grading, a C- or lower grade would not meet the prerequisite either.*

Example 2: You are currently enrolled in Course 1 and are planning to enroll in Course 2 in a subsequent term. The prerequisite for Course 2 is a B or better in Course 1.

### You opt in for S/U grading.

- If your instructor submits a B grade for Course 1, the B is converted to an S. Because the S maps to a C for purposes of meeting prerequisites, the S grade DOES NOT meet the prerequisite for Course 2. This works similarly if you earn an A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, or C. In sum, B converts to S which maps to C for meeting prerequisites and therefore does not meet a B or better restriction. You cannot meet a B or higher minimum grade requirement if you opt in for S/U grading.
- If your instructor submits a C- or lower grade for Course 1, the grade is converted to a U. U grades do not meet prerequisites.

Example 3: You are currently enrolled in Course 1 and are planning to enroll in Course 2 in a subsequent term. Course 2 has a prerequisite of Course 1 but has no minimum grade requirement for Course 1. In this case, any passing grade (i.e., D- or higher) in Course 1 will meet the prerequisite.

### You opt in for S/U grading.

- If your instructor assigns a C grade for Course 1, your grade will convert to an S. An S maps to a C for purposes of prerequisites and C is a passing grade and you, therefore, have met the prerequisite for Course 2.
- If your instructor assigns a D- for Course 1, your grade will convert to a U. U grades are not passing grades and do not meet prerequisites. *Note: in this example, if you had not opted for S/U grading and you had a D-, you would have a passing grade and you would meet the prerequisite for Course 2.*

## **How does S/U work for purposes of meeting degree requirements?**

S/U grading works similar to the prerequisites for meeting degree requirements. Some examples that we hope will help you think through your decision are provided here but they will not capture every situation. If you are unclear of the impact of S/U grading on your own degree requirements, be sure to see the appropriate advisor as listed in the first FAQ above.

Example 1: You are taking a course in Spring 2020 that can meet a major requirement if you earn a C or better.

You opt in for S/U grading.

- If your instructor assigns a grade of B-, your grade will convert to an S. Since the S maps to a C for prerequisite and requirement purposes, the S grade will meet the C or better restriction and therefore meet the requirement. The logic is similar if you earn an A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, or C.
- If your instructor assigned a grade of C-, your grade will convert to a U. A U grade will not meet any requirement (or prerequisite).

Example 2: You are taking a course in Spring 2020 that meets a major requirement and any passing grade will meet the requirement (i.e., a D- or higher will meet the requirement).

You opt in for S/U grading.

*PLEASE NOTE: In this case, if you could possibly be assigned a C-, D+, D, or D- grade from your instructor, you run a high risk of NOT meeting the requirement if you opt for S/U grading. Be sure you understand the second bullet below.*

- Your instructor assigns you a grade of B. The B converts to a S. Since the S functions like a C for prerequisite and requirement purposes, the S grade will meet the requirement. The logic is similar if you earn an A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, or C.
- Your instructor assigns you a grade of C-. The C- converts to a U. A U grade will not meet any requirement (or prerequisite). The logic is the same for C-, D+, D, and D- grades.

The next two examples explain how S/U grading works when a course meets more than one requirement but the requirements have different grading restrictions:

Example 3: You are taking a course in Spring 2020 that meets a major requirement if a C or better is earned. You also have a declared minor and the same course meets a requirement of the minor. However, there is no minimum grade requirement for the minor (a passing grade will meet the minor requirement).

You opt in for S/U grading.

- Your instructor gives you a grade of B which converts to an S grade. The S grade functions like a C for prerequisites and requirement purposes so the S grade will meet the major requirement (C or better) and the minor requirement (any passing grade, D- or higher). This works similarly with grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, and C.
- Your instructor assigns a grade of D+ which converts to a U. The U grade does not meet any requirement (or prerequisite). This works similarly with grades of C-, D+, D, and D-. *Note: If you had not opted in for S/U grading, you would have a D+ which would not meet the major requirement (C or better) but would meet the minor requirement (D+ is a passing grade).*

Example 4: You are taking a course in Spring 2020 that could meet both a General Education Program (GEP) requirement and a Gordon Rule (GR) requirement. Let's use the example of ENC

1101, Composition I, that could meet Communication Foundations GEP, which requires a C or better, and Gordon Rule Writing, which requires a C- or better.

You opt in for S/U grading.

- Your instructor assigns a B grade in ENC 1101. The B converts to an S. The S grade functions like a C grade for purposes of meeting requirements (and prerequisites) so the S grade meets the GEP requirement (C or better) AND the GR requirement (C- or better).
- Your instructor assigns a C- grade in ENC 1101. The C- converts to a U. A U grade does not meet any requirement so both GEP and GR requirements are not met. *Note: If you had not opted in for S/U grading, you would have a C-. The C- would not meet the GEP requirement (C or better) but it would meet the GR requirement (C- or better).*

**I'm taking an Elementary level foreign language course (e.g. SPN1120C, SPN1121C, FRE1120C, FRE1121C, KOR1120C, KOR1121C, etc.) in order to meet, or work towards meeting, the one-year foreign language proficiency. How will selecting S/U grading impact completion of this requirement?**

In order to earn credit towards the language proficiency, you must earn any grade except an F or a U. If you select S/U grading and you earn a C (2.0) or better in the course, you will earn an S, which will meet the requirement. However, if you earn a C-, D+, D, D-, or an F, these will map to a U, which will **NOT** meet the requirement.

**I'm taking a course to satisfy the 120-hour and 48-hour upper level requirements. What grading system should I select?**

All UCF credits for which you earn A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, or S grades will apply towards the 120 hour requirement and upper level credits (3000 level or above) will also apply towards the 48 hour upper level requirement. U and F grades will not apply towards either requirement.

**How does S/U grading impact GPAs?**

Grades of S and U do not impact the GPA. A grade of S will result in credit for the course, but it will not be used in the calculation of the GPA. A grade of U will reflect attempted credit that was not earned in the course, but it will not impact the GPA.

**How does an unsatisfactory (U) grade impact my academic standing?**

A U grade will not impact your GPA and therefore does not impact academic standing. Note: If you are on probation and opt in for all of your courses in Spring 2020 to be graded as S/U, you will continue on probation after the term ends since you will have no Spring 2020 term GPA and your UCF GPA will not change.

**If I am graduating this semester, how will S/U affect me in a class I need to pass to graduate? How will it affect my GPA?**

If you are unsure of how S/U will impact meeting requirements for graduation, it is essential to contact your major advisor and your COSAS advisor. You may email [cosgraduation@ucf.edu](mailto:cosgraduation@ucf.edu) and you will be directed to a COSAS advisor who will review your audit with you.

## OPTING IN AND WITHDRAWAL

### **How do I opt-in to S/U grading? What's the deadline?**

You will complete an online request form using the self-service option in myUCF. The form will be available April 10. **AFTER YOU HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT**, if you decide you want any of your grades converted to S/U grading – if you choose to “opt-in”, here are the steps you need to take:

- Between April 10 to 27, submit your request for S/U grading. Go to the myUCF portal and select Student Self Service > Student Center > Other Academic (dropdown menu) > COVID-19 S/U Option.
- Opt-in by 11:59 p.m. on April 27.

### **What do I do if I do not want to opt-in for an S/U?**

You do not need to take any action. You will receive the letter grade you earn for your class(es). You will not have the option to select S/U grading after 11:59 pm on April 27.

### **Can I withdraw from a class instead of opting-in for an S/U?**

Yes, you can withdraw from a class no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, April 20.

### **If I already withdrew from a class, will I have an opportunity to reinstate the class now that the opportunity to earn a U exists?**

You may request a withdrawal reversal within 3 business days of when you withdrew from the class. If you withdrew prior to the establishment of the S/U grading option, you do not have the option to reverse your withdrawal beyond 3 business days of when you withdrew.

## COURSE ELIGIBILITY AND CONTINUED STUDIES

### **Are there any classes that are not eligible for S/U grading?**

If a course is eligible for S/U grading, it will appear on the S/U selection page. Go to the myUCF portal and select Student Self Service > Student Center > Other Academic (dropdown menu) > COVID-19 S/U Option.

### **Can I choose an S/U grade for labs?**

Most labs are associated with a course and one grade is given for combined lecture and lab. You will be able to select S/U grading for that combined grade. Labs that are enrolled independently from any lecture are eligible for S/U grading and will appear as separate courses on the S/U selection page.

### **I received a U grade in a class, would I have to use grade forgiveness to repeat it later?**

No. A U grade does not negatively impact GPA. You should not use grade forgiveness for a course graded S/U.

### **Would repeating a course in which I received a U be considered a second attempt?**

Yes. See “Third Attempt Course Repeat Surcharges” in UCF Undergraduate Catalog.

### **Does S/U grading impact students in special populations or cohorts?**

You must contact the program office to determine how S/U grading will affect you.

Student athletes:	Academic Services for Student Athletes	407-823-5895
Honors students:	Burnett Honors College	407-823-2076
International students:	UCF Global	407-823-2337
Veterans:	Veterans Academic Resource Center	407-823-2707
Pre-professional students:	Pre-Health and Pre-Law Advising	407-823-0101
Financial Aid	Office of Student Financial Assistance	407-823-2827

### **How will my BHC University Honors status be determined based on Spring 2020 grades?**

Contact the Honors College if you have additional questions about your university honors status.

- Good standing will be determined by using the UCF cumulative GPA and UCF Honors cumulative GPA as calculated by UCF after Spring 2020 grades are posted.
- Students currently in good standing who achieve less than a 3.2 UCF cumulative GPA and/or a 3.0 cumulative Honors GPA after Spring 2020 grades are posted will receive a warning letter instead of being placed on probation.
- Students currently on honors probation who achieve less than a 3.2 UCF term GPA and/or a 3.0 cumulative term GPA after Spring 2020 grades are posted will be placed on extended probation, instead of being removed from university honors.
- Students graduating in Spring 2020 are expected to meet honors graduation requirements to graduate with university honors:
  - 3.2 UCF cumulative GPA
  - 3.0 honors cumulative GPA
  - Satisfactory completion of a minimum of eight BHC Honors courses as outlined on the [BHC website](#)
  - BHC courses with grades of S will count toward the eight-course requirement.

### **Will selecting the S/U grading option impact my application to graduate or professional school?**

Please contact the graduate or professional program to which you are applying or the appropriate UCF resource office to discuss the possible impact of an S or U grade on your graduate or professional school application. These include:

- Degree program advisor
- Pre-Health and Pre-Law Advising at 407-823-0101
- College of Graduate Studies at 407-823-2766 (for referrals and advice from comparable programs at UCF)

### **Will selecting S/U grading impact my financial aid and/or satisfactory academic progress (SAP)?**

S, U, and NC grades could help you maintain your current GPA because it won't change it. S grades may also help you meet the earned hours requirements. However, a U or NC grade would not help you meet the earned hours requirement nor the SAP completion percentage standard.

### **How will Spring 2020 S/U grades appear on my transcript sent to professional and graduate schools?**

The back of transcripts contains a legend detailing grades. Spring 2020 transcripts will indicate that the S/U grade option was offered this semester because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **How will S/U grades be reviewed by Bright Futures or other scholarships that require a GPA and credit requirement?**

U grades will not negatively impact your GPA, and you will not receive credit. S grades also do not affect your GPA, and you will receive credit for completing the course.

### **Can I appeal my decision to receive an S/U for a class?**

There is no appeal. Appeals to reverse your request for an S/U will not be allowed. Before you select S/U grading, consult with the instructor and your academic advisor.