

Southwestern College Amended Grading Policy for Grades Received in Spring 2020 only
Approved by Faculty Vote, April 16, 2020

In response to the disruptive circumstances created by the current global pandemic, Southwestern College has adopted the following temporary policy changes to mitigate the impact of this disruption on our students. **This change will be in effect for Southwestern College Main Campus courses (see below for requirements for Education programs) currently underway in the Spring 2020 semester. The change does not apply to graduate courses or courses at Professional Studies.**

Students need to consult with their Academic Advisor before making any academic changes to ensure that the decision will not have negative implications for academic progress and plans of study.

What will NOT change under this amended policy:

- 1. Course Grading Defaults:** Southwestern College will maintain the “default” grading option connected to all courses. For example, in all courses listed in our records as “letter grade” student will receive a letter grade (A-F), and in courses listed as “satisfactory/unsatisfactory” (S/U) students will receive an S or U grade.
 - 2. Course Withdrawal:** While the deadline for course withdrawal has already passed (March 20, 2020), students may still request a late withdrawal up until May 1, 2020 (the last day of classes). As always, the Academic Dean’s Office will consider late withdrawals on a case-by-case basis. Students should consult with their academic advisor before requesting a withdrawal. The student will submit a request to the Academic Dean’s Office via email (sc.academicdean@sckans.edu) with a copy to the adviser.
 - 3. Grade Appeals:** Generally used to appeal a grade a student believes “is inconsistent with documentary evidence”. This process and its timelines will not change. See page 17 of the Course Catalog for the full policy.
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Amended Grade Policy

The following changes will allow students to have some flexibility in the grading of their courses. Any grade change request has a variety of ramifications and should be considered carefully in consultation with the student’s advisor.

S/U Grade Option Added to Grade Appeals for Spring 2020 only:

- Grades of S/U (normally only available until the end of the Add/Drop period at the beginning of the semester) will be added to the options available through the regular grade appeal process. **Students can engage this process after faculty have submitted their final grades.** For all courses with default letter grades, students who have earned a grade of A through D will have the option to request to change one or more such class final grades from the letter grade earned to “satisfactory” (S). This grade will satisfy degree and prerequisite requirements. Once a student has consulted with their advisor, the student should submit the grade change request via email to the Academic Dean’s Office at sc.academicdean@sckans.edu with the proposed changes. The Academic Dean’s Office will consult as needed with the student’s academic advisor before making the requested changes. The deadline for filing grade appeals remains, as always, 30 days from the start of the following semester, in this case, September 17, 2020. **Education programs resulting in licensure cannot allow the S/U option.**

- "S" (Credit) grade can be requested if the letter grade is A through D. A "U" (No Credit) grade can be requested if the letter grade is D- or F. **Note: S/U grades are not included in the calculation of the GPA.**
- All grades of "S" in the Spring semester of 2020 will be deemed to satisfy Southwestern College degree and prerequisite requirements and will allow the student to advance to higher-level courses. Various grade prerequisite requirements, i.e., "C or better," are suspended during this period. Grades of "U" will not satisfy existing prerequisite requirements. **Education programs resulting in licensure cannot allow the S/U option.**

Academic Suspension

- All Southwestern College decisions and actions related to students' academic suspension will be deferred until after completion of the fall 2020 semester. Students whose academic performance suggests the need for intervention will continue to be referred to various campus support offices to enhance their prospects for success.

These policy amendments apply ONLY to grades received for Spring 2020 Main Campus undergraduate courses. Each student needs to seek individual guidance as they consider whether to request conversion of any letter grades to "S/U" grades. Students who plan to pursue graduate school should also explore the possible implications of the decision to convert letter grades to "S/U" grades.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What will happen to my GPA if I choose to substitute the letter grade I earned with an "S/U" (credit/no credit) grade?

A grade of "S" will not move your GPA up or down, and neither will a grade of "U". If you choose an "S" grade, the credit hours you earned in the course will count in your total hours but do not influence the semester or total GPA.

2. Can I use the "S/U" option for courses that I need to get into the Education program?

No. This pre-professional program has external requirements that it must meet, so letter grades are still required for courses in this division and for courses that are prerequisite to the teacher education program. Consult with your academic advisor if you are in Education.

3. If I select "S" instead of a letter grade, will that be accepted by a graduate school or medical school?

Some schools will accept this grade for this semester because they understand the extreme circumstances this semester, but there is no requirement for them to accept this and not all schools will. If you earn an A or B it is recommended to use the letter grade and NOT select the S option.

4. Can I continue to be on the Dean's List if I choose the "S/U" option?

Dean's List still requires at least 12 credits of letter grade with 3.7 GPA. Courses that are graded as "S" or "U" will not count toward that calculation. Also keep in mind that "Graduation with Honors" is awarded to students with 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher – a grade of "S" or "U" would NOT influence this standing at graduation.