UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

The Graduate School

Spring 2020 Expanded Pass/Fail Grading Mode FAQ

Eligibility

How do I know if I am eligible to request a grade of S+/S/U after the end of the Spring 2020 semester?

If you are a graduate student enrolled in full term Spring 2020 courses or Spring 2 2020 courses that issue standard letter grades (A through F), you will be eligible to replace the final grade you received with an S+/S/U. Earned grades of A, B+, B, C+, and C will be replaced with S+, earned grades of D+ and D will be replaced with S, and an earned grade of F will be replaced with U.

How do I request a grade of S+/S/U?

All graduate students are eligible to request a grade of S+/S/U through the **Spring 2020 Pass Fail Grade Request Form**.

If I registered for a Pass/Fail course at the beginning of the semester or switched to the Pass-Fail grade mode during the semester, am I eligible to request the Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade mode at the end of the semester?

No, students who chose to take a course on a traditional Pass/Fail basis will continue on a Pass/ Fail basis using the University's established S/U system (e.g., Grades will be assigned as described in the course syllabus).

If I elected to take a course on a Pass/Fail basis prior to campus closure in Spring 2020 am I eligible for a grade of S+?

No. Students who elected to take a course on a Pass/Fail basis prior to campus closure in Spring 2020 will continue on a Pass/Fail basis using the University's established S/U system.

May I request to have a grade of WF replaced by a grade of U for the Spring 2020 semester?

No. A student assigns themselves a WF by withdrawing from a class after the WF deadline; it is not an earned grade assigned by an instructor. If a mental health, medical, or personal crisis prevented academic success or required you to withdraw after the WF deadline of Spring 2020, you may wish to petition for a **hardship withdrawal**.

I have a grade of incomplete (I) from Fall 2019 and I have been working to complete that course during the Spring 2020 semester. May I request to receive a grade of S+/S/U for that course?

No. This Pass/Fail Grade policy applies only to courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester. If you feel that the COVID19 pandemic created challenges that prevented you from resolving an incomplete (I) grade, please contact your instructor about possible accommodations or extensions.

Selecting Pass/Fail

Am I required to submit a Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade Request?

No, this is optional not mandatory.

Do faculty members approve my request for a S+/S/U grade?

No, your request goes directly to the Office of the University Registrar for processing.

Will faculty members be notified if I request a S+/S/U grade?

No, faculty members will not be notified if you choose to request a S+/S/U grade.

How long do I have to select a Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade for a Spring 2020 course?

You will have until **July 1, 2020** to submit a Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade request.

Credit Hours and GPA

Q: How do S+/S/U grades affect my USC GPA?

A: Grades of S+/S/U do not impact the GPA.

Q: Will I earn credit hours if I request a S+/S/U grade?

A: Courses with S+ and S will count towards earned semester hours and a course with a grade of U will not.

UNIVERSITY OF

South Carolina

The Graduate School

Degree Applicability

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a course, can the course and grade count toward degree requirements?

A: Courses graded with the S+ will be eligible to appear on a Program of Study. If a degree requires a course to be passed with a grade of C or better, a student must have earned an S+ in the course to meet that requirement. Courses graded with a U will not count toward any requirements. Please consult with your academic advisor prior to submitting a pass-fail grade request.

Q: How will grades of S+/S/U equate to "minimum grade" course pre-requisites?

A: Choosing this option does not waive any progression requirements for a grade of B or better.

Q: What if I am an undergraduate enrolled in an accelerated bachelors/graduate study program or a senior privilege course?

A: Undergraduate students enrolled in graduate or professional classes through senior privilege or accelerated bachelors/graduate study plans should be aware that courses without a standard letter grade may not be accepted for credit by a graduate or professional program.

Academic Standing

Q: Will students on university probation, who request grades of S+/S/U, still be required to meet the 3.0 GPA requirement to return to good standing?

A: Graduate students on academic probation this semester will have one additional semester to improve their GPA so they can choose the S+/S/U without risking academic suspension.

Q: Will students on university probation, who request grades of S+/S/U, still be placed on suspension if they do not meet the cumulative or semester GPA thresholds outlined in the undergraduate Academic Standards Policy?

A: No graduate student will be placed on academic probation or academic suspension based on Spring 2020 grades.

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South Carolina

The Graduate School

Transcripts and Attestations

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a Spring 2020 course, will any other notations appear next to the course or grade?

A: UofSC will include a transcript note on all academic records, regardless of grading basis, indicating the extraordinary circumstances of the global public health emergency during Spring 2020.

Q: I plan to apply to medical school after graduating from USC. I heard that medical schools may request that I provide my original grade for a course for which I requested a Pass/Fail Grade in the Spring of 2020.

A: Because some graduate and professional programs require letter grades to be reflected on transcripts, when necessary, students will be able to request an official letter attesting to the letter grade earned in any classes that were converted to S+/S/U. This letter would attest only to grades, not to GPA and students can be assured that those who need evidence of your academic achievements this spring will be able to receive it. Such letter can be obtained from the Office of the University Registrar once a Pass/Fail Grade request is processed.