FAQs for S/U Grades in Spring 2020 - Graduate Students

What is S/U and how does it affect my GPA?

- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory is a grading option that allows graduate students to complete a course without the grade affecting the cumulative UC GPA.
- S/U courses count for unit requirements but do not count toward your GPA. More information is available on TritonLink.
- Course work must be equivalent to B- or better to receive a grade of S.

If I choose S/U (or letter grade) for a Spring 2020 class, but decide after week 10 that I would like to change to a different option, can I request to change retroactively. What if I choose S/U but find out I received an A or a B in the course?

No. Friday, June 5 (Week 10 of Spring 2020) is a firm deadline. Petitions to retroactively change a grading option will not be approved.

I received a D or F in a course previously, can I repeat it with the S/U option? How will that impact my GPA?

Yes. The Office of the Registrar will provide a list of impacted students to the Educational Policy Committee for approval by individual exception. Students will be notified by the Graduate Division once an exception is granted by EPC. Students are advised to consult with their department advisors about the impacts of taking the course for a S/U grade on their degree progress.

My graduate program requires courses be taken for a letter grade. For Spring 2020, can I take courses for major requirements for S/U?

Please contact your graduate program if you have questions about its policies for Spring 2020 courses and other requirements.

I’m an international student on a visa. Are there any restrictions on taking courses S/U?

F-1 or J-1 International students can take courses S/U. Units for courses taken S/U will be counted towards their full course of study requirements to maintain their visa status. International students are required to maintain a full course of study (12 units) or must be authorized for a reduced course load by ISPO.
I am a recipient of Veterans Benefits. Are there restrictions or effects of me taking courses S/U in Spring 2020?

Your housing allowance/stipend may be reduced if you receive U grades. The VA will not pay for units that receive a U grade (non-punitive), as the units do not count toward your degree progress and are not factored into your GPA. Units that are graded U must be deducted from your certified unit load. If this drops you below 12 units your housing allowance/stipend will be reduced accordingly and the VA will bill you for the balance. Please contact Lisa Linares – llinares@ucsd.edu for further details.

I receive Financial Aid. Are there restrictions or effects of me taking courses S/U in Spring 2020?

Potentially. All students are required to meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, which includes a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). As a S/U grading option does not affect a student’s GPA, a student’s academic performance for the rest of the year will determine if they meet the overall GPA requirement for the year. Please contact the Financial Aid Office should you have any questions.

In addition, some individual financial aid awards (for example outside scholarships or Veteran benefits) may also require students to meet certain GPA requirements to remain eligible. For more information, please contact the awarding agency.

**MS Level students enrolled in upper-division courses should consider similar implications to all of the above if choosing the P/NP grading option.

Details can be found on the Academic Senate website.