

# FAQs for Current Students Regarding Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)

## SPRING 2020 COVID-19 FAQs FOR CURRENT STUDENTS REGARDING COURSE GRADES Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)

*Please read ALL FAQs carefully. If you have a question that is not addressed here, please email [registrar@lincolnu.edu](mailto:registrar@lincolnu.edu). Allow 24 hours for a response.*

### **Will Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades be optional, or will all classes be graded using Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) this semester?**

All undergraduate and graduate students have the option to change your grading basis to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). Each student must determine whether they wish to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) or the standard letter grades for each class in which they are enrolled. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades will not count in your GPA. You will receive course credit for Satisfactory (S) grades; you will not receive course credit for Unsatisfactory (U) grades. We advise that students continue with the current letter grading mode until they have had time to assess their comfort with the new online course delivery. The deadline to switch to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) is May 29, 2020. For students who do not request to switch to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U), the final grade roster will reflect the standard letter grade options.

### **What is the difference between the F and U grade?**

While both are failing grades, the U does not impact students' grade point average (GPA) either positively or negatively, while F does impact GPA negatively (0 quality points). If a student elects to be graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for this semester, and they earn a failing grade, they would receive the U grade. If a student receives a letter grade, and they earn a failing grade, they would receive the F grade.

### **Will Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades count in my GPA and will I receive course credit for them?**

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades will not count in your GPA. You will receive course credit for Satisfactory (S) grades; you will not receive course credit for Unsatisfactory (U) grades.

### **Are all classes eligible for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

Yes, it is expected that all classes will be eligible for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). This includes all undergraduate and graduate courses, including classes that were already fully online before the COVID-19 crisis, and classes that are currently set up as S/U courses. If there are specific reasons related to specialized accreditation or licensure requirements in specific

programs that a particular class will not be eligible for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U), the Dean of the appropriate School/College will ensure that students are notified in writing that the class cannot be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) prior to the deadline to withdraw from classes.

### **How do I request to use Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) as opposed to a letter grade?**

Students must complete a simple Request for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) form that will be housed on the Office of the Registrar's webpage. The link to the form will be available beginning the week of April 27, 2020. The deadline to switch to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) is May 29, 2020

### **Should I choose to move to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U), or continue with the standard letter grade mode?**

This is an individual decision each student must make for each of their classes. Your academic advisor may be able to assist you in thinking through the decision, but you must make the decision for yourself. We advise you to continue with your current grading basis until you have had time to assess your comfort with the new online course delivery. This may take a few weeks.

### **What are some of the things I should think about before deciding whether to move to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

There are many things to consider as you make your decision. Things to consider include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Weigh your options carefully based on where you are in the course. Review your midterm grade for each course and see if there have been any changes to the syllabus/course requirements which may impact your decision to change your grading method to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U).
- If you have a GPA requirement you need to meet, it may not be in your best interest to change some or all of your courses to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). If you need to raise your GPA for any reason, such as Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), athletic eligibility, scholarship requirements, to meet the cumulative GPA required to graduate (2.0 for undergraduate students), etc., it may not be in your best interest to take a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for some or all of your courses. You are strongly encouraged to consult your academic advisor and/or financial aid counselor prior to changing any courses to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U).
- If you are applying to graduate or professional school or if letter grades are needed for certification or licensure, it may not be in your best interest to take a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for some or all of your courses. If you are unsure whether this may be an issue in your program, please consult your academic advisor or chairperson prior to opting for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U).

- Be aware that a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade will not automatically qualify you as having met a prerequisite for a future course. This means you will likely need an override to register for some courses in future semesters.
- Please remember that you must have a minimum of 12 credits of letter grades to be considered eligible for the Dean's list. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades will not count towards the 12-credit eligibility for these honors.
- We have not received guidance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on how they plan to treat Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades with regard to benefits. If you are receiving veteran's benefits and have questions, you may contact Veterans Services, Kristin Guerrant, [guerrantk@lincolnu.edu](mailto:guerrantk@lincolnu.edu).

### **What is the grading scale for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

Please consult your instructor for more information regarding their grading scale. Generally speaking, if you opt to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades, a grade of Pass should be assigned by the course instructor when the work is judged to be of low "C" quality or better.

### **Is it possible that some students in a class will receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades while others receive letter grades?**

Yes. Each student will decide which classes, if any, they wish to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades for. It is likely that some students in a class will elect to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) while others will elect to receive letter grades. When an instructor goes to the final grade roster, the final grade options for each individual student will be standard letter grades. If the student requested S/U through the official Request for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) form, this will be changed in the Registrar's Office.

### **Can a student change their mind about opting for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

Students have until May 29 to inform the University that they want to use the S/U option. Once a student has completed the online Request for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Form requesting to receive a S/U grade for a course, it is irreversible. If the student does not elect Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) by this date, they will receive standard letter grades.

### **Repeating a Course - What happens if I am repeating a course?**

The University policy indicates that the most recent grade earned is the grade that counts. In short, the grade from this semester will replace any grade in the same course from a previous semester. This includes standard grades (A, B, C, D, F) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). So, let's say you failed a class last semester, repeated the class this semester, and opted for a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade. The F would still show on your transcript, but would no longer be calculated in your GPA. The S or U from this semester would show on your transcript as well but would have no impact on your GPA because S/U grades do not impact your GPA positively or negatively.

For reference, the university repeat policy is as follows:

## **Repeating Courses**

A student may repeat for a higher grade any course in which a "D" or "F" was earned. Only the highest grade earned will count in the GPA if the previous grade is a "D" or "F." A course in which a "B" or "C" is earned may not be retaken in order to achieve a higher grade. If a course is repeated, all grades obtained in that course remain on the student's transcript.

## **Course Attendance - Do I have to continue attending class if I select Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

Yes, you must continue to attend class and complete assignments even if you select the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option.

## **Financial Aid Impact - How will taking the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option impact my financial aid?**

Your GPA will not be impacted by the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option. However, if you opt for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and receive a U grade, it could negatively affect your "satisfactory academic progress" for financial aid purposes. The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option will impact students who need to improve their cumulative GPA because Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades will not count in your GPA. The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option will impact your passing rate which is required to be 67% or higher to receive federal financial aid.

How changing to the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option will impact a student will vary based on the situation of the individual student. As such, students are strongly encouraged to consult their academic advisor and/or financial aid counselor prior to changing any courses to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). Your financial aid counselor can help you with determining how your financial aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) might be impacted.

**Pass/Fail courses (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)-** will count toward total hours attempted for the Cumulative Completion Rate (calculation of both cumulative attempted credit hours and, if passed, cumulative completed credit hours), but will not count in the GPA calculation.

**Repeated courses -** will count toward total hours attempted for the Cumulative Completion Rate (but only one passing grade will be considered as a completed course). The newest grade will be included in the GPA calculation and the older grade will be excluded. Federal student aid is available for only one retake of a passed course. Letter grade of 'D' is considered a passing grade according to federal regulations.

## **Billing Impact - I am on a payment plan and have a payment coming up. Am I supposed to pay for it even though I'm opting for the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory option for all my classes?**

Yes, you are still taking classes for credit, so you must still pay your tuition bill.

### **Switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory - I don't want to switch to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). What do I need to do?**

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) is optional; this means you do not have to change to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading. If you decide to take the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option, you will need to send an email to the Registrar's Office by May 29, 2020. If you want to keep the current grading mode of A, B, C, D, or F, there is no further action you need to take.

### **Switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory - How do I go about switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

The Office of the Registrar will create a simple form that you will need to complete for each course that you wish to be graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). The form will be available on the Registrar's Office website by Monday, April 27. The deadline to complete the form to request Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading is 5:00 pm, May 29, 2020. Please weigh your options carefully. Your chairperson, academic advisor or dean may be able to assist you in thinking through the decision, but you must make the decision for yourself. Once you have submitted a request for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U), it cannot be reversed.

### **Pros/Cons of switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) - I'm not sure if I should switch to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Could you provide some examples of situations in which it would be beneficial for a student to switch to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)?**

The advantages or disadvantages of switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) will vary by student. Only you are in the unique position of knowing how you are being impacted by this which is why the decision to take this option is not one which should be taken lightly. Below is some general guidance that may be useful in a few specific situations, but we must strongly emphasize that each student should read ALL FAQs carefully and discuss the matter with their instructor, academic advisor, and financial aid counselor as needed. It is ultimately up to the student to make an informed decision based on their specific situation.

\*\*\*These are just a few sample scenarios. It is the responsibility of each student to make an informed decision based on their specific situation. Please read ALL FAQs carefully and discuss the matter with your instructor, academic advisor, and financial aid counselor as needed.

Situation***	Yes-you may want to consider switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)	No-you may want to consider keeping the standard letter grade system
My cumulative GPA is below 2.0 I am doing well in my classes and believe that I can raise my GPA this semester.		If you need to raise your GPA for any reason (such as Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), athletic eligibility, scholarship requirements, or to meet the cumulative GPA required to graduate, it may not be in your best interest to take a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for some or all of your courses.)
I plan to apply for graduate or professional school or am in a program where certification or licensure is required.		Because the University cannot guarantee that other institutions or licensing bodies will accept Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades (S/U), it may not be in your best interest to take a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for some or all of your courses.)
I am trying to make the Dean's List.		You must have a minimum of 12 credits of letter grades to be considered eligible for the Dean's list. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades will not count towards the 12-credit eligibility for these honors.
I receive VA benefits.		We have not received guidance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on how they plan to treat Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades with regard to benefits. If you are receiving veteran's benefits and have questions, you may contact Veterans Services, Kristin Guerrant at <a href="mailto:GuerrantK@lincolnu.edu">GuerrantK@lincolnu.edu</a> .

<p>I am worried that I might not do as well as I would like to in my classes this semester due to the covid-19 situation.</p>	<p>You may want to consider switching to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for classes that you are concerned about. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades will not impact your GPA either positively or negatively.</p>	
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**Do I have to select one grading option for all classes or can I choose Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) for some classes and not others?**

You can choose Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory for some classes and not others.

**How do I request to use Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) as opposed to a letter grade?**

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