

A message from Carl Moses, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs.



March 31, 2020

GV Students,

**Grand View University will adopt a temporary credit/no credit grading option for undergraduate and graduate courses impacted by the move to online instruction due to COVID-19.**

Details on the credit/no credit option:

- This option applies to any course that was in progress as of March 1, 2020, or later (the majority of full semester spring courses and Session 4 courses).
- Grades of S (Satisfactory) and U (Unsatisfactory) will not be factored into the student's grade point average.
- A grade of S means the student has earned credit for the course; a grade of U means the student has not earned credit for the course.
- Students may elect this option for any core course, including composition and quantitative reasoning.
- Students may elect this option for any course in their major, minor, or certificate, with the exception of required courses in the Education, Nursing, and Social Work majors. (Students in these three majors will receive more information from their department chair.)
- Faculty will grade students as usual during the semester, and submit the letter grade (A – F, I) to the Registrar's Office following the standard submission process.
- Students will choose whether to accept the final course grade as submitted by the instructor, or a S/U designation. The decision must be made between April 29 and May 5 for full semester spring courses, and between May 6 and May 12 for Session 4 courses. Students will submit a form to the Registrar's Office. If no form is received, the letter grade submitted by the instructor will be recorded as the final grade.
- Credits taken as S/U will not count towards the minimum of 12 graded credits needed to qualify for President's/Dean's Lists.

**All students should consider this option very carefully** with their academic advisor, completion coach, or other student success staff. Students in the following categories should be extra cautious before opting in to S/U grading: Students planning on attending graduate/medical school; Students needing to earn conventional grades to improve their GPA or maintain a certain GPA for scholarships, athletic eligibility, or financial aid eligibility. You should consult with your advisor before opting in.

**In addition, Grand View will extend the deadline to drop a semester-long course with a W grade through April 9. International students and student-athletes will need approval from the appropriate offices before dropping a course.**

## **FAQs**

- 1. Why are we doing this?** We've made these changes because we want to give you every opportunity to be successful in this semester of extreme disruptions. You are working in an allonline environment that may be unfamiliar and stressful for you, and we know that many instructors feel stressed, too. On top of feeling anxious about health concerns, many of you are feeling anxious about academic matters. We want to reduce some of that anxiety so you can focus on learning and staying healthy.
- 2. Who is eligible to choose this option?** Any undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in the spring semester, including students on academic warning or probation.
- 3. Which undergraduate courses does the policy apply to?** This temporary policy applies to spring courses in progress as of March 1, 2020, or most Session 4 courses. Any Session 3, Session 4, or Spring course that has a final grade submitted at publication of this temporary policy does not automatically qualify for S/U. The only courses not eligible are courses required in the Education, Nursing, and Social Work majors. Students in those majors will receive an email from their department chair with more information.
- 4. How many courses may a student take S/U?** Students may elect to switch to S/U for all, some, or none of their spring/Session 4 courses.
- 5. Will courses taken S/U count in my GPA?** No. Students will simply earn credit (S) or not (U).
- 6. Is there a limit to the number of courses taken S/U that can count towards the total credits needed for graduation?** Normally, students are limited to 9 credits taken S/U. Courses taken S/U for Spring 2020 will not count in the limit of 9.
- 7. Will courses taken S/U count towards my academic program requirements?** With the exception of courses required for the Education, Nursing, and Social Work majors, any course taken S/U for Spring 2020 will count to a student's academic program requirements, even those with a minimum grade requirement.
- 8. Will a grade of S work as a prerequisite to other courses?** As long as the grade of S was taken in Spring 2020, the S grade will count as an acceptable grade for a prerequisite course.
- 9. How do I opt into S/U?** The Registrar's Office will be developing a form for you to submit. Additional details will be ready soon.

10. **If my overall GPA is under a 2.0, or I am on academic warning/probation, what do I need to think about?** Students are encouraged to talk with their academic advisor or Getting to the Goal advisor before choosing the S/U option. Your GPA may not improve as much as you would like if you choose the S/U option for one or more courses.
11. **I'm a student-athlete trying to maintain eligibility. Can I take courses S/U?** At this time, the NAIA has not issued any specific guidance on courses taken this way. If you are right around a 2.0 GPA, you should talk with the Athletic Success Coordinator and your coach before making this decision. Your GPA may not improve as much as you would like if you choose the S/U option for one or more courses.
12. **Will my instructor know if I select this option?** No. Instructors will submit a letter grade as normal, and if you switch to S/U your instructor will not be notified of your decision.
13. **Will my graduate/medical school accept S/U grades?** This will depend on the institution. Students should work with their academic advisor, or other faculty in their program, to determine if this is the right decision. Students should check their graduate school's website or contact their admissions office to gain more information.
14. **How will this impact my financial aid?** Courses taken S/U are not counted in GPA requirements but they are included in Maximum Timeframe and PACE determinations for your Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about a SAP appeal or academic plan.
15. **Will choosing the S/U option impact my Grand View or external scholarships that have a GPA requirement?** Grades of S/U are not factored into a student's grade point average (GPA). The S/U policy will not affect the status of Grand View scholarships. Students should consult with external scholarship providers to determine if there are implications to selection S/U grading.
16. **What happens if I need to submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeal for financial aid?** Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about your SAP appeal.
17. **I'm using VA benefits. Can I take courses S/U?** Yes. The VA has determined that if a student receives a nonpunitive grade ("U") due to COVID-19, the VA will still pay for the class.



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