

April 2, 2020

## Spring 2020 Adjustments to Academic Policies and Practices

### *S-U Grading and Drop Policy (Final)*

This policy revises current [S-U Grading](#) and [Drop](#) Policies by providing students an opportunity to elect, for any or all eligible Spring 2020 undergraduate courses whose last day of class is after March 9, 2020, to remain in letter grading or shift to Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory (S-U) grading. Spring 2020 courses for which the student earns an S grade will be accepted as meeting requirements for the degree (e.g., for general education, writing, or major requirements.). Please note the following:

- Neither S nor U grades calculate into the GPA.
- Students must earn the equivalent of a C grade or better in the course to earn an S.
- A grade equivalent to a C- or lower will earn a U, which does not earn credit toward the degree.
- Once a student elects the S-U option, they cannot revert to a letter grade.

Students will also be allowed to drop any Spring 2020 course with a W. No courses dropped in this process will count against the student's current lower division or upper division drop count. Students will be fee-liable for courses dropped. Students will not be able to drop all courses in this process and would, rather, follow the [UF Withdrawal Process](#).

The window of time in which students can request S-U grading or to drop a course will be April 1-April 22, 2020. The drop/withdrawal deadline has been shifted from April 10 to April 22, 2020. All requests will be made through an online form that will be available on each student's ONE.UF page starting April 1, 2020.

### *Academic Dismissals (Proposed)*

No student will be dismissed for reasons related to academic progress from the University of Florida in the Spring 2020 semester. Any student who would have normally been dismissed from UF for reasons related to academic progress will be provided an additional semester.

### *Academic Probation (Proposed)*

*Continuing Students*

Continuing students (those with no possibility of graduating in May 2020) will be provided an additional semester of academic probation during their next enrolled term.

### *Graduating Students*

Students with a UF GPA below 2.0 (and any other required GPA) in courses required to graduate are strongly encouraged to keep these classes letter-graded in order to make every attempt to improve their GPA. If they earn above a 2.0 UF GPA by including their Spring 2020 required class grades, they will be allowed to graduate. If they do not earn above a 2.0 UF GPA, they will be allowed one additional semester of probation.

Students with a UF GPA below 2.0 who select S-U grading for courses required to graduate will not be allowed to graduate but, rather, will be given an additional semester of probation.

### *Graduating with Honors*

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-advising/academic-honors/#graduatingwithhonorstext>

Every student who was unable to complete laboratory and similar experiments and testing for their Honors thesis will be provided the opportunity to complete their work in alternate ways as agreed upon by the student's faculty advisor and research committee.

### *Pre-requisite Courses (Proposed)*

All pre-requisite courses, regardless of whether they are accompanied by a C+ or better requirement, will be accepted with an S grade.

### *Excess Hours*

Question: Will the drops that students make between April 1, 2020 and April 22, 2020 count towards the students' excess hours? We are checking with the Florida Board of Governors on this.

### ***Dean's List and President's Honor Roll (Proposed)***

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-advising/academic-honors/#deanslisttext>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-advising/academic-honors/#honorrolltext>

The Dean's List and President's Honor Roll will continue for Spring 2020. However, colleges will be required to accept as few as six credit hours of classes letter-graded with a minimum of a total of 12 credit hours completed. In other words, a student can opt to take 6 or more credit hours of S-U graded coursework in the spring as long as they have at least 6 credit hours of letter-graded coursework completed.

Rationale: Students in more stable (likely affluent) homes will have had the advantage of a living environment more conducive to learning after courses moved to the online format and students moved off-campus in Spring 2020. These students will likely have opted to stay in letter grades, thus affording them credits towards their GPA and eligibility for the Dean's List and President's Honor Roll. Allowing a minimum of 6 credit hours of letter-graded coursework and the remainder S-U-graded coursework with a minimum of 12 credit hours total completed will open the door to students who, because of their personal circumstances, chose S-U grading in some of their classes.

### ***Transcript Notation (Proposed)***

Every student's transcript will be marked with the same notation for Spring 2020 that describes the extraordinary circumstances of the semester and the options that the students were provided. A recommendation for the notation is "COVID-19 Pandemic," which will be placed near the term name (Spring 2020). This would serve as a date modifier and would also serve as a reminder to anyone reviewing the transcript in the future of the extraordinary circumstances the student experienced during this semester.

Rationale: Having a notation on every student's transcript will attempt to "normalize" across the population that every student faced an extraordinary circumstance. The hope is that this notation will allow those reviewing the student's transcript in the future to recall the pandemic and thus be more understanding towards S grades and dropped courses. Student inordinately negatively impacted by the shift to a new learning environment would not be judged as critically for their Spring 2020 academic performance.

### ***Transfer Admissions (Proposed)***

All programs will accept S grades (equating to C or better) for common course prerequisites for each major, regardless of whether these courses require a specific grade of C+ or higher. In this regard, they would be treated no differently from native students. All students must otherwise meet GPA requirements for competitive admission.

### ***Syllabus Policy (Proposed)***

[http://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi\\_policy\\_20191204.pdf](http://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_20191204.pdf)

In the shift to an online environment most residential courses faced in Spring 2020, faculty had to adjust their syllabi. Faculty have the right to do so as long as students are made aware of the changes in advance. All student learning outcomes must remain the same. Changes to exam dates and assignment deadlines are discouraged, however.

All required information as outlined on the UF Syllabus Policy is still required on the revised syllabi. One requirement that is not being met is posting the final syllabus on a publicly available web site.

### ***Non-punitive Grade Policy (Proposed)***

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext-otp1>

Current policy converts I\*/N\* grades to failing and are computed in the student's grade point average if they have not been changed after 150 days.

Proposed here is the following:

1. Spring 2020 don't make prior non-punitive grades punitive. No previous I\*/N\* grades will be converted to failing in Spring 2020.
2. Summer 2020 don't make prior non-punitive grades punitive. No I\*/N\* grades assigned prior to Summer 2020 will be converted to failing in Summer 2020.
3. Fall 2020 review requested exceptions by colleges as we normally do In the OUR. The current policy of assigning failing grades to I\*/N\* grades that have not been changed prior to 150 days of original assignment will resume.