Spring 2020 semester

FAQ for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades

1. **Why are some courses exempt from the S/U policy (in other words you cannot opt to receive an S/U grade)?**
   a. Some course will be exempt because they are prerequisite courses that require a student to attain a certain grade in order to move to the next class.

2. **When will a list of all the courses being exempt from this policy be available?**
   a. This list will be available the week of April 12th.

3. **Will I still be able to make the Dean's or Presidents list with S/U grades?**
   a. Although S/U grades will not impact Dean's or President's list, you will need to have at least 12 credits with a numerical grade in order to qualify for Dean's or President's list in the spring 2020 semester. S/U grades will not impact previous or future eligibility.

4. **My major calls for a 2.0 GPA, will choosing an S/U grade jeopardize my GPA?**
   a. Choosing the S/U option does not jeopardize your GPA. Neither Satisfactory nor unsatisfactory grades calculate in your GPA.

5. **If I choose S/U in a course I am retaking in order to improve my grade will it change or replace the previous grade.**
   a. No. S/U does not replace a previous grade from the same course. So if a student is taking a course in order to replace the grade and raise the GPA then you should not choose the S/U option.

6. **Will all the credits count toward my degree if I receive an S grade?**
   a. Yes. You will receive the full amount of credit hours for satisfactory grades and those credit hours are included in the calculation of your attempted credits whereas unsatisfactory grade does not. In other words, if you receive a grade of S in a 3 credit course you will receive 3 credits towards your degree.

7. **What do I need to consider before selecting to opt for an S/U grade?**
   a. Students should consult with their advisor to discuss the pros and cons of this decision including the potential implications for graduate school admission; perquisites for other courses; and transfer to other institutions

8. **Do I get to choose S/U over a numerical grade?**
   a. Yes, you have until May 13, 2020 to make that decision (note as stated above, some classes will be excluded).

9. **Do I have to opt in to the S/U grade for all my courses?**
   a. No, you can opt-in to receive S/U grade in only some of your courses. It is on a course-by-course basis.

10. **How do I let the Registrar know that I want to opt for an S/U grade?**
    a. [**Click the link here for the form**](#)

11. **Can graduate students opt for S/U grades?**
    a. No, there has never been a policy for S/U grading on the graduate level. Graduate students cannot opt in to this S/U policy.

12. **How will the S/U option appear on my transcript?**
    a. When a student opts to choose the S/U grading option, any course where a grade of 1.0 or greater is earned, the course will be listed as an S (satisfactory) on your transcript. A failing grade will be listed as a U (unsatisfactory). Neither of these grades will be calculated in your GPA.

13. **The current policy states that a student can only take a maximum of 12 credits of S/U toward their degree. Does this semester count toward the 12 credits allowed?**
    a. No, any S/U grades earned during the spring 2020 semester will be excluded from the 12 credit maximum rule.

14. **If I choose the S/U option, would those credits be transferable to another University?**
    a. Most of our sister institutions are moving toward the pass/fail option for the spring 2020 semester. The decision as to whether or not another institution will take an S/U grade, is up to the individual institution. If you are thinking of transferring, we would advise that you check with the institution that you are planning on transferring to, to make sure the class will transfer with an S or U grade.

15. **How will other institutions know what your S/U grade for the spring 2020 semester means?**
    a. Fitchburg State University is going to add a statement to the back of the transcript explaining what the S/U grade for spring 2020 means. S = 1.0 or greater, U = fail and that neither count in the GPA.