

The purpose of this policy is to provide a grading option for students in consideration of the change in teaching modality as well as other unusual personal and educational circumstances due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Spring 2020.

In providing this, we seek a temporary grading policy that is simple to understand, minimizes extra work for faculty, encourages students to finish their courses, and provides flexibility for individual students' circumstances.

This policy comes after consultation with faculty, Deans, and records administration. We believe this exceeds the request by students expressed through their representation on SMU Student Senate.

The Provost may, upon consultation with the Deans and the Faculty Senate, renew this policy for subsequent terms that affected by circumstances related to Covid-19. In particular, the Provost will seek an endorsement of an extension through a vote by the Faculty Senate.

For graduate coursework, the individual schools and college will determine and communicate their policies in the coming days.

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Students may declare this option any time after a grade is posted following a final exam until the appropriate deadline. In order to maintain the timely conferral of degrees and availability of final transcripts,

The University will post degrees in May regardless of any decision about commencement ceremonies. The earlier date for graduating seniors will not change even if commencement ceremonies are postponed.

This policy provides students in undergraduate-level courses an option for grades of Satisfactory ("S"), Satisfactory Minus ("S-"), and No Credit ("NC").

- A student may choose to receive a grade of Satisfactory ("S"), Satisfactory Minus ("S-") or No Credit ("NC") according to the definitions that follow for each undergraduate-level course completed during the Spring 2020 semester or any term for which the Provost approves the use of this policy.
- Faculty will report letter grades as normal according to the grading system used for each course and described in the course syllabus.

There are many reasons why an individual student may wish to keep a letter grade in order to earn a specific GPA or meet other requirements, and they should consult with an advisor if they have any questions. If the student does not specifically choose the alternative grading scheme for a course by the deadline, the letter grade reported by the faculty member will stand.



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The grading option of S, S-, NC is not allowed for a course in which the student was found in violation of the Honor Code by the University Honor Council or by Faculty Disposition. The faculty assigned grade for the course stands.

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When the Spring 2020 course is a repeat for grade replacement, the grades of S and S- will cause the original grade to be removed from the GPA and the attempt is counted against the limit of 6. The grades of NC and W are considered an incomplete second attempt, and the original grade remains in the GPA. The incomplete attempt is not counted as one of the 6. Both the original and the repeated grade will appear on the student's transcript.

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The last date to drop a course has been extended to April 24, 2020. Courses dropped between March 16