

Revised S/U grading policy for the spring semester 2020

Approved by the Joint Faculty Senate on March 24, 2020

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruptions, educators and students across the country have requested greater flexibility in grading options, at a time when both faculty and students are making quick adjustments to online learning. We have examined policies at other institutions, followed the national conversation on this fast-developing issue and in consideration of the petition of the student senates at CSB and SJU, have made the following changes to our S/U grading policy for the spring semester of 2020 only:

- 1) These changes will apply to all full-semester courses and all CD-mod courses, but not to the already completed AB-mod courses.
- 2) Students still have the option to receive a grade of A-F for all of their coursework (unless it is a S/U-only designated course).
- 3) **As students determine whether to choose A-F or S/U grading, students are strongly advised to make the decision carefully and in consultation with their advisors to consider the consequences of the decision.** This consultation and advice will be especially important for those students considering graduate programs and for students in licensure programs. (For example, first year students applying to the nursing program must take all their courses A-F.) Faculty advisors are requested to reach out to their students and offer help proactively.

Changes:

- Our current policy does not allow first year students or students on academic probation to take a course for S/U grading. **CSB/SJU waives this restriction for the spring semester 2020 and will allow first year students and those on academic probation to take courses for S/U grading.**
- Our current policy does not allow students to select S/U grading within their declared major. **CSB/SJU waives this restriction for spring semester 2020 and will allow students take courses within their major for S/U grading.**
- Our current policy requires approval from the department chair to take a course S/U as part of a minor. **CSB/SJU waives this requirement for spring semester 2020 and will allow students take course within their minor for S/U grading.**
- Currently, some courses are offered only for A-F grading. **For the spring semester 2020, all courses will be graded with standard grading: A-F with the option for S/U grading.**
- Our current policy allows individual instructors to determine a date by which students must choose S/U grading. **For the spring semester 2020, CSBSJU overrides this**

individual decision and will allow all students in all courses to choose S/U grading until at least May 4, 2020. Faculty have the option to delay this due date. Students are responsible for informing instructors of their decisions by that date.

- Current policy limits the number of courses that students (other than first-year students and those on academic probation) may take for S/U grading to one per semester (beyond those courses that are offered for S/U only). **For the spring semester 2020, CSBSJU waives this restriction. Students may opt for S/U grading in as many courses as they determine is appropriate in consultation with their faculty advisor.**

It is important to note that the following aspects of current policy remain unchanged for spring semester 2020:

- The grade of S will be recorded for work meriting letter grades of A, AB, B, BC, or C. The grade of U will be recorded for work meriting letter grades of CD, D, and F.
- Grades of CD and D count for credit toward graduation.
- No credit toward graduation will be granted for a course receiving a grade of U or F.
- Whether the course is offered for standard grading or S/U-only, all students must fulfill the same assignments and course responsibilities.
- Incomplete grades revert to the letter grade if the student does not complete the work. For example, an ICD becomes a CD.
- An incomplete grade of IU is not a passing grade.