

Spring 2020 Expanded Pass/Fail Grading Mode FAQ

Eligibility

How do I know if I am eligible to request a grade of S+/S/U after the end of the Spring 2020 semester?

If you are an undergraduate student enrolled in full term Spring 2020 courses or Spring 2 2020 courses that issue standard letter grades (A through F), you will be eligible to replace the final grade you received with an S+/S/U. Earned grades of A, B+, B, C+, and C will be replaced with S+, earned grades of D+ and D will be replaced with S, and an earned grade of F will be replaced with U.

How do I request a grade of S+/S/U?

All undergraduate students are eligible to request a grade of S+/S/U through the **Spring 2020 Pass Fail Grade Request Form**.

If I registered for a Pass/Fail course at the beginning of the semester or switched to the Pass-Fail grade mode during the semester, am I eligible to request the Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade mode at the end of the semester?

No, students who chose to take a course on a traditional Pass/Fail basis will continue on a Pass/Fail basis using the University's established S/U system (e.g., S is earned if the grade is D or above and U is earned for grades below D).

If I elected to take a course on a Pass/Fail basis prior to campus closure in Spring 2020 am I eligible for a grade of S+?

No. Students who elected to take a course on a Pass/Fail basis prior to campus closure in Spring 2020 will continue on a Pass/Fail basis using the University's established S/U system.

May I request to have a grade of WF replaced by a grade of U for the Spring 2020 semester?

No. A student assigns themselves a WF by withdrawing from a class after the WF deadline; it is not an earned grade assigned by an instructor. If a mental health, medical, or personal crisis prevented academic success or required you to withdraw after the WF deadline of Spring 2020, you may wish to petition for a hardship withdrawal.

I have a grade of incomplete (I) from Fall 2019 and I have been working to complete that course during the Spring 2020 semester. May I request to receive a grade of S+/S/U for that course?

No. This Pass/Fail Grade policy applies only to courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester. If you feel that the COVID19 pandemic created challenges that prevented you from resolving an incomplete (I) grade, please contact your instructor about possible accommodations or extensions.

Selecting Pass/Fail

Am I required to submit a Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade Request?

No, this is optional not mandatory.

Do faculty members approve my request for a S+/S/U grade?

No, your request goes directly to the Office of the University Registrar for processing.

Will faculty members be notified if I request a S+/S/U grade?

No, faculty members will not be notified if you choose to request a S+/S/U grade.

How long do I have to select a Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade for a Spring 2020 course?

You will have until July 1, 2020 to submit a Spring 2020 Pass/Fail Grade request.

Hours and GPA

Q: How do S+/S/U grades affect my USC GPA?

A: Grades of S+/S/U do not impact the GPA.

Q: Will I earn credit hours if I request a S+/S/U grade?

A: Courses with S+ and S will count towards earned semester hours and a course with a grade of U will not.

Life Scholarship Eligibility

Q: How might requesting a grade of S+/S/U affect Life Scholarship eligibility?

A: For courses with grades of S+/S, the hours earned will count toward Life Scholarship credit hour requirements. Grades of S+/S/U will not affect the Life Scholarship GPA.

Degree Applicability

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a course, can the course and grade count toward degree requirements?

A: Courses graded with the S+ will count towards all applicable curricular, major, minor, progression, and graduation requirements. Courses graded with S+/S will count toward all requirements where a grade of D or better is allowed. If a degree requires a course to be passed with a grade of C or better, a student must have earned an S+ in the course to meet that requirement. Courses graded with a U will not count toward any requirements. **Please consult with your academic advisor prior to submitting a pass-fail grade request.**

Q: How will grades of S+/S/U equate to “minimum grade” course pre-requisites?

A: If a course is a prerequisite for another course and a grade of C or better is required in the prerequisite, a student must have earned an S+ in the prerequisite course.

Q: What if I am an undergraduate enrolled in an accelerated bachelors/graduate study program or a senior privilege course?

A: Undergraduate students enrolled in graduate or professional classes through senior privilege or accelerated bachelors/graduate study plans should be aware that courses without a standard letter grade may not be accepted for credit by a graduate or professional program. (complete answer coming soon)

Course Grade Forgiveness

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a Spring 2020 course, will that course count as my “first attempt” in the course for the purposes of grade forgiveness?

A: No. If a student retakes the course in question, it will count as the first attempt.

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S for a Spring 2020 course, can I use this grade to forgive a previous attempt?

A: Yes. Grades of S+/S may replace previous standard letter grades.

Q: May I forgive a grade of U with a second attempt in the course in a later semester?

A: Yes.

Study Abroad Transfer Credit

Q: Will my study abroad grades earned at a foreign institution during the Spring of 2020 be equated to the UofSC grades of S+/S/U?

A: No. Study abroad grades earned at a foreign institution during the Spring of 2020 will be equated to the UofSC grades of S/U.

Academic Standing

Q: Will students on university probation, who request grades of S+/S/U, still be required to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement to return to good standing?

A: Faculty Senate is discussing modification of these regulations for Spring 2020 and this FAQ will be updated if that happens.

Q: Will students on university probation, who request grades of S+/S/U, still be placed on suspension if they do not meet the cumulative or semester GPA thresholds outlined in the undergraduate Academic Standards Policy?

A: Faculty Senate is discussing modification of these regulations for Spring 2020 and this FAQ will be updated if that happens.

Semester and Graduation Honors

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a Spring 2020 course, will the course count toward semester honors? (Dean's List/President's List)?

A: No. Course taken on a Pass/Fail basis will not be counted toward semester honors. In addition to meeting the semester honors GPA threshold, a student must complete at least 12 hours with standard letter grades to qualify for semester honors.

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a Spring 2020 course, will the course count toward the hours requirement for graduation honors? (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude)?

A: Yes. Courses with grades of S+/S will count toward the 60 credit hours required for graduation honors for a bachelors degree and 30 credit hours required for an associates degree.

Transcripts and Attestations

Q: If I request a grade of S+/S/U for a Spring 2020 course, will any other notations appear next to the course or grade?

A: No. Comments will not be placed by the course or course grade. University of South Carolina transcript key will include comment regarding the Spring 2020 Pass/Fail grade mode.

Q: I plan to apply to medical school after graduating from USC. I heard that medical schools may request that I provide my original grade for a course for which I requested a Pass/Fail Grade in the Spring of 2020.

A: Because some graduate and professional programs require letter grades to be reflected on transcripts, when necessary, students will be able to request an official letter attesting to the letter grade earned in any classes that were converted to S+/S/U. This letter would attest only to grades, not to GPA and students can be assured that those who need evidence of your academic achievements this spring will be able to receive it. Such letter can be obtained from the Office of the University Registrar once a Pass/Fail Grade request is processed.