



South Dakota Board of Regents	
Temporary Alternate Grading Options for Spring 2020 Semester	
<i>Temporary Policy Exceptions in Response to COVID-19</i>	
Date Issued:	April 3, 2020
Date Revised:	April 16, 2020
Universities:	Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota

- 1. Overview:** This temporary policy creates exceptions to Board [Policy 2:6](#) and Board [Policy 2:10](#) relating to S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grading. Policies 2:6 and 2:10 currently state that S/U grading may only occur when the entire course requires the S/U grade or the student has elected the S/U option on or prior to the census date of the term. This temporary policy supplements Policies 2.6 and 2.10 for the dates between April 3, 2020 and May 18th, 2020 unless otherwise expressly extended by the South Dakota Board of Regents.
- 2. Courses Selected as S/U Grading Prior to this Temporary Policy:** Course sections designated as S/U sections at the beginning of the Spring 2020 semester are exempt from these policy exceptions and shall remain S/U sections. Students who selected S/U grading options in course sections prior to the census date under the existing policy shall continue under the original S/U grading option.
- 3. Program Exemptions:** These temporary policy exceptions apply to undergraduate and graduate students unless the university specifically exempts an academic program from this policy. Students enrolled in academic programs exempted from the S/U grading policy by the university may not select S/U grading options for any course in which they are enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester, unless the student was enrolled in a course designated as S/U prior to the census date as described in Section 2. Grading policies established at the start of the Spring 2020 semester for academic programs listed as exempt shall remain in place. The university will provide a list of excluded academic programs where applicable.
- 4. Option to Convert Grades of A, B, or C to Satisfactory (S) Grades:** Students in undergraduate or graduate programs not expressly exempted as described in Section 3 may select to keep their final letter grades of A, B, or C or convert their final letter grade to a final grade of S (S = "Satisfactory"). Students selecting the S grade option will receive all applicable credit for the course and the grade will not be calculated in their grade point average.

5. **Option to Convert Grade of D to Unsatisfactory (U) Grade:** Students in undergraduate or graduate programs not expressly exempted as described in Section 3 may select to keep their final letter grade of D or convert their final grade to a U (U = “Unsatisfactory”). Students selecting the U grade option will not receive applicable credit for the course and the grade will not be calculated in their grade point average.
6. **Conversion of Grades of F to Unsatisfactory (U) Grade:** Students in undergraduate or graduate programs not expressly exempted as described in Section 3 shall have all grades of F automatically convert to a grade of U (U = “Unsatisfactory”). Students receiving the U grade option will not receive applicable credit for the course and the grade will not be calculated in their grade point average.
7. **Faculty Grade Calculations:** Faculty shall continue to calculate and submit student grades (i.e., A, B, C, D, or F) for all courses according to the grading policies in place at the start of the Spring 2020 Semester. Grades will not convert to S/U until a student selects the S/U option during the time frame established in Section 8.
8. **S/U Grading Selection Period:** Students may make decisions on converting eligible courses to S/U grading under this section from May 4th, 2020 through May 18th, 2020. Eligible students will electronically submit all requests for the S/U grading options under this policy through a process established by the university and communicated to students (students do not need to communicate their intention to select traditional grading or S/U grading to their instructor). Eligible students may select S/U grading options under this policy or retain their original grading options for each individual course; this includes courses that were originally online courses as well as those that transitioned to remote teaching methods mid-semester. Selections for choosing S/U grading options or retaining letter grades are final on May 18th and cannot be changed again at a later date.
9. **High School Dual Credit and Concurrent Credit Students:** Students participating in the state subsidized high school dual credit program established under SDCL 13-28-37.1 and high school/university concurrent credit programs are eligible to select the S/U grading option. High school students participating in high school dual credit or concurrent credit programs should consult with their school counselors/advisors prior to selecting the S/U option to ensure that S/U grades will comply with local school district policies.
10. **USD School of Law:** The University of South Dakota School of Law shall have mandatory Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (N/NC) grading in all classes for the Spring 2020 Semester. No numeric grades will be assigned, only a designation of N (equivalent to “pass”) or NC (equivalent to “fail”). While numeric grades will not be assigned, in assessing if student performance will be graded “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory,” faculty will consider the current law school policy which defines an “F” as any grade below 60. Faculty will also consider the requirement to demonstrate minimum professional competence in the knowledge, skill, or values in which the course provides instruction and which is assessed

at the end of the course. Students will receive an “Unsatisfactory” if the faculty member determines that the student fails to demonstrate the minimum professional competency to be achieved by the end of the course as set forth in the syllabus and classroom instruction.