

Dear Students,

To ease your transition to distance learning and support your academic success, the University at Buffalo is amending two key grading policies for the spring 2020 semester.

We are extending the resign deadline through the last day of spring 2020 examinations. Prior to resigning from a course, please speak with an academic advisor and financial aid advisor to understand the implications of taking this action. Instructions on how to Resign a Course are available on the Office of the Registrar website at: <https://registrar.buffalo.edu/registration/howtoregister/drop-add-resign.php>

We have also made a number of changes to satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) grading policy:

- The deadline for students to elect this option is extended through the last day of the spring 2020 examinations.
- Spring 2020 courses graded S/U are excluded from the maximum 25 percent of S/U credits allowed towards a degree.
- For undergraduate students:
  - Courses taken for S/U grades during spring 2020 will count towards UB Curriculum general education requirements, major requirements and electives.
    - Some degree programs may require you to recover letter grades in major courses and pre-requisites in the future. To date these include Nursing, Accounting, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.
  - Undergraduate students may find information on how to Request an S/U Grade on the Office of the Registrar website at: <https://registrar.buffalo.edu/forms/su-grade.php>
- For graduate students:
  - Graduate students should consult their Program Director or Director of Graduate Study to determine if courses taken for S/U grades during spring 2020 can fulfill degree requirements prior to requesting S/U grading.
  - Graduate students who wish to be graded on a basis different from the one announced by the instructor must submit a written request to the instructor by the last day of spring 2020 examinations. The instructor's decision will be final and will be transmitted to the student in writing.

As a reminder, these other aspects of the S/U policy are still in place:

- You may elect to have the grading changed, on a course-by-course basis, from a letter grade (A-F) to S/U.
- For undergraduate students:
  - Grades of S and U are not factored into a student's grade point average.
  - Faculty will grade students as usual during the semester. We will convert letter grades to the appropriate S/U grade.
    - At any later date, students may elect to 'recover' their letter grade on a course-by-course basis.
- For graduate students:

- An S indicates credit earned and U indicates no credit earned. The S grade should be awarded only in those instances where a student's weighted grade would have been equivalent to a B or better.

Providing these options should ease your transition into remote course delivery and promote strong engagement in your courses. Our very best wishes are with you throughout this extraordinary time.

Sincerely,

Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School

Ann Bisantz, Dean of Undergraduate Education