

**SPECIAL REPORT
of the
GRADUATE COUNCIL**

concerning a

SATISFACTORY/FAIL GRADING POLICY FOR THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER

**Presented at the
799th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 12, 2020**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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Continuation of the public health emergency created by the Covid-19 pandemic means that the campus has not returned to normal operations during the Fall 2020 term. Almost all instruction will continue to be remote; most graduate students will continue to work on their courses from home. Though continuing graduate students have had time to adjust to receiving remote instruction, and in many cases also to providing it, the economic and other stresses of the pandemic have not disappeared. To alleviate some of the stress students may experience, the university will operate under a partial alteration of graduate grading mechanisms during the fall 2020 semester.

Satisfactory/Fail Grading in Graduate Courses taken during the Fall 2020 Semester

The recommended deadline for selecting Satisfactory/Fail grading in a graduate course during the Fall 2020 semester is extended through Friday, November 20 (the last day of classes).

Considerations to be Kept in Mind

1. This policy does not affect the Graduate School rule that no more than 50% of all courses in a Masters's degree program can be taken for Satisfactory/Fail grades.

- 2. Degree program limitations on selecting Satisfactory/Fail grading that stem from professional licensure requirements are not affected by this policy.**
- 3. As they consider opting for Satisfactory/Fail grading, graduate students should keep in mind that letter grades in particular courses may be required by their program, needed for admission to a different graduate program on this campus or elsewhere, needed for admission to an advanced professional degree program, or necessary to meeting scholarship eligibility requirements.**
- 4. The Faculty Senate urges Graduate Program Directors and other Graduate Faculty to be very attentive to the extra stresses imposed by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, and accept graduate student requests to opt for Satisfactory/Fail grading in particular courses. The Faculty Senate also urges Graduate Program Directors to make an exception to program rules and accept such Satisfactory/Fail graded courses as meeting program requirements.**