

SPECIAL REPORT
Of the
RULES COMMITTEE
regarding

**GRADUATE SATISFACTORY/FAIL
GRADING POLICY
FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEMESTER**

Presented at the
801st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
January 28, 2021

Rules Committee Membership

**Lisa Green (Chair), Steven Brewer, David Hoagland, Sarah Hutton
Karen Kalmakis, Mzamo Mangaliso, Jennifer Normanly
MJ Peterson, Janice Telfer**

Satisfactory-Fail Grading Policy for the Spring 2021 Semester

Continuation of the public health emergency created by the Covid-19 pandemic means that the campus will not be returning to normal operations in the Spring 2021 term. The largest portion of instruction will continue to be remote; most students will continue to work on their courses while living off-campus. Though faculty and returning students have had time to adjust to remote instruction, 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 Spring 2021 semester.

Modified Grading for Graduate Courses for the Spring 2021 semester.

- 1. Graduate programs vary in the extent to which they permit courses taken on a Satisfactory (SAT/F) grading basis to count towards degree requirements.**
 - a. Graduate students will need to inform the faculty member teaching the class that they intend to select Satisfactory/Fail but will not need the faculty member's permission to select that grading.**
 - b. In graduate programs which do not allow applying courses graded SAT/Fail to all or some degree requirements graduate students will be allowed to select Satisfactory/Fail for one course if they are currently taking 2 or 3 courses, or for two courses if they are currently taking four or more courses.**
 - c. In graduate programs which allow applying courses graded SAT/Fail to all or some degree requirements, graduate students will be allowed to select Satisfactory/Fail grading for one additional course.**
- 2. Graduate School policies require that a minimum of one-half of the total required credits for a master's degree be on a letter-graded basis. To accommodate the modified grading rules for Spring 2021, the minimum required letter-graded credits will be reduced to one-third (33%) of the total required credits for students completing a master's degree in May of 2021.**
- 3. The deadline to select Satisfactory/Fail grading will be extended to Tuesday, May 4th.**
- 4. Current graduate program policies restricting the number of Satisfactory/Fail courses a student can take in a given semester and restricted usage of Satisfactory/Fail courses for satisfaction of program specific requirements are modified by these special rules.**
- 5. As they consider opting for Satisfactory/Fail grading, graduate students should keep in mind that actual course grades may be needed for application to a different graduate program on this campus or elsewhere, an advanced professional degree program, professional accreditation and licensure, or to meet scholarship eligibility requirements.**

**Motion
17-21**

That the Faculty Senate approve the Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning the Satisfactory/Fail Grades Policy for the Spring 2021 Semester, as presented in Sen Doc. No. 21-039.