

Grading Information Specifically for Undergraduate Students

The grades of "A" through "D-," "P" and "S" are passing grades, and credit is earned for courses in which they are awarded. Grades of "D+," "D" or "D-," while considered passing for undergraduate students, indicate weak performance. While the credits count toward graduation, some programs require certain courses to be passed with a "C" or better, or some other specific grade, to fulfill requirements for the major. No lower grade, such as a "C-" in this example, will satisfy these program requirements. (See the [Degree Requirements section](#) of this catalog for other requirements, such as Gordon Rule courses.) The grades of "F" and "U" are failing grades and do not earn credit.

From fall 1991 through summer 1997, the plus-only system was used in which "B+"=3.50, "C+"=2.50 and "D+"=1.50. Grades earned at FAU during this period will receive grade points according to that system.

Pass/Fail Grading Option

In certain designated undergraduate courses, undergraduates may elect to receive a grade of Pass ("P") or Fail ("F") rather than a standard grade. When undergraduates choose this option, they participate in the course the same way as students enrolled for a letter grade. The instructor is not informed that they have chosen the P/F option until the course is completed. At that time, students who would receive a passing letter grade receive a "P" instead; a "P" grade will be awarded credit but will not be counted in calculating the grade point average. Students who do not achieve passing work receive a grade of "F," which represents failing work and will be counted when calculating the grade point average.

This option is available only to undergraduate students and requires the approval of the college of the student's major; it is not available for courses in the student's major or to students on probation. The maximum credit available to any student on the pass/fail option is one course per term, with a maximum of 12 credits during a student's entire course of study.

Undergraduates wishing to take a course as pass/fail (provided the course is available for the P/F option) must select this grading option by the end of the first week of classes. During the second and third weeks of classes, students must file a petition with their colleges to select the P/F option or vice versa. Such changes will not be considered beyond the third week of classes unless students have not taken a test in the class, not had an assignment graded or not had any other assessment of class work. The only exception to this policy is if the student has transferred to another institution or program that requires a letter grade.

Question: If a student opts for Pass or Fail option, does the student receive a Pass if the grade is at least a "D-?"

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading

Certain courses are designated by the department offering them to be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. Unlike P/F grading, S/U grading is not an option for the student, but applies to all students in the course. In such courses, the grade of "S" indicates passing work and will be awarded credit for the course, but the course will not be included in the grade point average. The grade of "U" indicates failing work. The "U" is not awarded credit and is not included in the grade point average.

Question: If the class is coded as S/U, does the student receive a 'S' if the grade is at least a "D-" or is the S/U determined based on the instructor's syllabus?

Grading Information Specifically for Graduate Students

Passing grades: The grades of "A" through "C," and "S," are passing grades. **Note:** The grades of "B-," "C+" and "C," while considered passing for [undergraduate](#) students, are indicative of unsatisfactory work for graduate students and may not be accepted for some courses.

Failing grades: The grades of "C-," "D+," "D," "D-," "F" and "U" are failing grades. No credits are earned in courses in which grades of "AU," "CR," "F," "I," "U," "W," "WM" or "ZR" are received.

Question: Should [undergraduate](#) in this section be graduate?

Thesis/dissertation grades: All thesis/dissertation credits receive a grade of "S" or "U."

The grades "S" and "U" are used to indicate satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance in courses approved for such grading. The Pass/Fail (P/F) option is not available for graduate courses.

A student who registers for a course but fails to meet the course requirements, without officially dropping the course,

will receive a grade of "F" in the course. See Drop/Add section. In extraordinary circumstances, the faculty may record "NR," which will appear on the transcript as "NR" until the situation is resolved.

Question: If the class is coded as S/U, does the student receive a 'S' if the grade is at least a "C" or is the S/U determined based on the instructor's syllabus?