

Motion to Revise the Pass/Fail Grading Option

Motion:

Effective Fall 2010, but aspects of the implementation of this policy may be delayed due to budgetary constraints.

The policy on pass/fail (S-U) grading is modified as follows:

Additions ~~Deletions~~

Students may enroll in courses taught on a pass/fail (S-U) basis subject to the following conditions:

1. Course taken pass/fail (S-U) will appear on the official transcript with a grade of "S" or "U." These grades do not count in the computation of the grade point average.

2. *Resident* credit earned with a grade of S will count ~~only~~ toward meeting the 120 hour semester requirement and/or 39 hour academic residence requirement (if not already met through major/dept/college requirements). *Transfer credit awarded with a grade of S counts towards all degree requirements.*

3. Courses taken pass/fail (S-U) will not count toward:

- a. core curriculum requirements, Areas A-F
- b. courses required for a major or minor, or
- c. courses that satisfy college requirements.

Colleges may authorize exceptions to b. and c. but such exceptions must be specifically authorized by the college through the college's curriculum approval process.

4. No more than 10 hours of courses taken pass/fail (S-U) at *Georgia State* may be counted towards an undergraduate degree. Courses taken on a pass/fail (S-U) basis beyond this limit will earn institutional credit but will not count toward graduation.

~~5. To take courses on a pass/fail (S-U) basis, a student must have a Georgia State University cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5.~~

5. To take a course on a pass/fail (S-U) basis, the student must meet all prerequisites and all other enrollment restrictions (e.g., GPA requirements, co-requisites, etc.).

6. The request to be graded pass/fail (S-U) in a course must be made before the end of ~~regular~~ late registration and, ~~if approved~~, cannot be changed in any way at any time.

7. ~~Students enrolled in a course on a pass/fail basis must meet all normal course requirements (e.g., attendance, reports, papers, projects, examinations, labs, etc.).~~ It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor by the end of the first week of classes and obtain from the instructor the requirements necessary to earn a grade of S.

8. The normal withdraw policy will apply to courses taken pass/fail (S-U). ~~Students enrolled in a course on a pass/fail (S-U) basis will receive a "WF" if withdrawn from the course after the midpoint of the academic term, subject to the usual exceptions for Hardship Withdrawals.~~ Withdrawals in courses taken pass/fail (S-U) count against a student's limit of withdrawals with a W just as courses graded A-F do.

9. Colleges/departments will decide which courses may ~~may decide that certain courses may not~~ be taken on a pass/fail (S-U) basis. Such decisions must be approved according to departmental/college curriculum change policies. ~~by the Dean of the college.~~

10. This motion applies only to undergraduates.

Rationale [for the August 2008 version]:

The Senate passed a policy on S-U grading in Spring of 2007. However, during implementation, it became apparent that

- a. Georgia State has a long practice of allowing non-resident (i.e., transfer) S grades to count towards degree requirements.
- b. Many international students come in with significant amounts of S credit. Not allowing non-resident S grades to count towards degree requirements would have a substantial negative impact on international students.
- c. Both Tech and UGA allow non-resident S grades to count towards degree requirements.
- d. The requirement that students must have a 2.5 GPA in order to take courses pass/fail is not workable in those departments that require certain courses to be taken pass/fail.
- e. It is best to have the decisions about the pass/fail option for courses approved through the normal college curriculum processes. This provides the documentation needed for matters such as SACS review.
- f. The policy regarding WF grades as changed since Spring 2007.

For these reasons, the above revisions seem appropriate.

Rationale for the February 2009 version:

1. The sixth paragraph was changed to allow students to switch to or from S/U grading up through late registration, which end during the first week of the semester. This gives students some flexibility but at the same time prevents students from changing their choice after their likely grade in the course becomes clearer later on in the semester.
2. “If approved” was dropped from the sixth point to make the policy flexible enough to accommodate different methods of implementation.
3. The August 2008 revision gave departments the option of opting out of offering specific courses S/U. The February 2009 revision gives departments to the option of opting to offer S/U courses. It was thought that this would (1) ease potential problems with implementation and (2) make the process easier for departments that would typically not allow many courses to be taken S/U.
4. This revision requires departments and colleges to go through their standard curriculum review process to allow courses to be offered S/U rather than going to the college dean.