Optional Pass-NoPass Grading for SIU Undergraduate and Graduate Students – Fall 2020

SUMMARY

1. **Timeline** -- The Pass-NoPass choice period is from December 7 through December 16, 2020.

2. **Review your grades** in SalukiNet before you make a Pass-NoPass choice.

3. **Consider all potential implications** before you elect Pass-NoPass grading:
   - GPA: Pass-NoPass (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grades do not contribute to grade point averages. The pass or satisfactory grade option would not be helpful for students who are trying to raise their GPAs so that they can graduate, or for any other reason.
   - Scholarships: Some scholarships require a minimum GPA; GPAs are examined annually.
   - Financial aid: There could be financial aid ramifications with respect to maintaining adequate academic progress.
   - Professional/graduate school: Some students who are applying to graduate or professional schools may need letter grades.
   - Accreditation: Students in accredited programs may need letter grades.
   - Employment: Some employers may be concerned about a student having a significant number of nongraded academic credits on the transcript.
   - You should check with your academic advisor or program director before you make a Pass-NoPass choice.

4. **Use SalukiNet SSB to make a Pass-NoPass choice.** Here’s a [video](#) demonstration of how to do this using SalukiNet SSB.

Following are step-by-step instructions for electing Pass-NoPass grading along with more detailed information related to the undergraduate and graduate grading systems you will need to know to make an informed decision.
Optional Pass-NoPass Grading for SIU Undergraduate and Graduate Students — Fall 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented circumstances for Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s students, faculty, and staff. In recognition of these challenges, SIU leadership has decided to permit all undergraduate and graduate students, with the exception of students enrolled in the Schools of Law and Medicine, the option of requesting an alternate “Pass-NoPass” grade mode for individual courses. For undergraduate students, this refers to P/NP (pass-no pass) grades rather than normal letter grades; for graduate students, this refers to S/U (satisfactory-unsatisfactory) grades rather than normal letter grades. This elective grading option is available for the Fall 2020.

How to Change Your Grading Option -- Beginning Monday, December 7 through Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 11:59 PM CT.

1. Students should first review their final letter grades by logging into SalukiNet. Going to the “View Your Grades and Academic Standing” task is the easiest way to review your grades. Since faculty may still be in the process of entering grades, you will want to check this task frequently once grading has started on Dec. 7.

2. Students who decide to change a course registration to Pass-NoPass grading must log into SalukiNet Self-Service (SSB) and choose the link to “Add or Drop Courses.” Using the dropdown menu under the Action column – if the menu is available for that course – choose **Registered as P/NP or S/U** to change that course from the instructor-assigned letter grade to the alternate grading option.

   Please see the illustration below: for this student, the fifth course (ECON 113) has already been changed to Pass-NoPass grading, while the first course (GEOG 100) is being considered for Pass-NoPass grading (with the Action menu being open on it). The fourth course (HIST 112) cannot be changed because it was previously dropped with a W grade.

   ![Illustration of SalukiNet view grades](image)

   **Current Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Subj</th>
<th>Crse</th>
<th>Sec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><em><strong>Registered for Class</strong></em> on Dec 03, 2019</td>
<td>20457</td>
<td>GEOG 100</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><em><strong>Registered for Class</strong></em> on Dec 03, 2019</td>
<td>22086</td>
<td>MATH 101</td>
<td>012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><em><strong>Registered for Class</strong></em> on Dec 03, 2019</td>
<td>20431</td>
<td>MIRC 201</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Course Withdrawal (W) on Mar 01, 2020</td>
<td>22125</td>
<td>HIST 112</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Registered as P/NP or S/U</strong> on May 08, 2020</td>
<td>21612</td>
<td>ECON 113</td>
<td>001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Total Credit Hours: 16.000

3. Faculty will submit the letter grade earned for each student during the normal grading period. After Wednesday, Dec. 16, these grades will be rolled to history and the above Action will no longer be available in SalukiNet SSB. For students who have elected the Pass-NoPass option on one or more courses, the Registrar’s Office will then substitute the appropriate P/NP or S/U grade in place of the instructor-assigned letter grade on Dec. 17. Having the Registrar’s Office do the substitution at this later time allows the student to first review the assigned grade and then make an informed decision regarding the Pass-NoPass option.
4. A student who wishes to elect Pass-NoPass grading, but who is unable to use SalukiNet SSB to take the actions noted in Step 2 because they have a registration hold, can instead complete this form to elect Pass-NoPass grading. The completed form must be sent to Registrar@siu.edu for manual processing no later than Wednesday, Dec. 16. Remember that it is faster and more accurate to use SalukiNet SSB than to use the form.

5. Students who use SSB to elect Pass-NoPass grading, but do so in error and need to reverse their choice, must also complete the form noted in Step 4 and send it to Registrar@siu.edu no later than Wednesday, Dec. 16 in order to request the Pass-NoPass option not be used on a course. A Pass-NoPass option chosen within SalukiNet SSB can only be reversed manually by the Registrar’s Office.

6. It is highly recommended that students wait until they see the final grade in each course before deciding whether or not to opt in to Pass-NoPass grading on that course. Within SalukiNet, you can have open both the “View Your Grades and Academic Standing” task and SSB’s “Add or Drop Courses” page in separate browser tabs to help you review your final grades while deciding whether or not to opt in to Pass-NoPass grading.

7. In the event that the final grade assigned is an INC (Incomplete), the student will still need to decide by the Dec. 16 deadline whether or not to opt in to Pass-NoPass grading on that course. Undergraduate and graduate students will both now have one year to complete work for a Fall 2020 course that is given an INC grade.

What is the impact of Pass-NoPass grading on GPA and degree credit?

- The Pass-NoPass grading option will not be available for those Fall courses that the student has previously dropped with a W grade. It will not be available to students who have withdrawn from SIU during this Fall.

- For undergraduates choosing Pass-NoPass grading (with P/NP grades), letter grades of D or better will be converted to a P grade. A course with a P grade will count toward degree progress, but will not be calculated in the GPA. A course with an NP grade (which a grade of F would be converted to) will not count toward degree progress but will also not be calculated in the GPA. The Undergraduate Grading System can be found here.

- For graduate students choosing Satisfactory- Unsatisfactory grading (with S/U grades) letter grades of A through D will be converted to an S grade, and a failing grade will be converted to a U grade. A course with an S grade will count toward degree progress. Neither the S grade nor the U grade will be calculated in the GPA. The Graduate School Grading System can be found here.

- Graduate students must seek permission from their program director/department chairperson before electing the Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory (S/U grades) option.

- Earning a P (pass) grade in a required teacher education licensure course will count as a completed course. A pass is considered to be equivalent to a grade of C or better. Teacher education majors must have a C or better for their major courses. Earning an NP (no pass) grade is a failure to meet the licensure requirement; therefore, the student will need to repeat the course.

- Pre-professional students who seek admission to medical, law, or veterinary schools should consult with their academic advisor before selecting the Pass-NoPass option. While several medical schools are indicating that they will accept pass grades for this Fall 2020 semester only, many are recommending that students not opt for Pass-NoPass grading for pre-requisite courses.
• Students repeating a course who choose Pass-NoPass grading may see an impact to their cumulative GPA calculation. We recommend that you discuss the matter of course repeats with your academic advisor before selecting Pass-NoPass grading.

• Fall 2020-degree candidates should be aware that once the degree has been awarded there will not be any registration adjustments made to the educational record including Pass-NoPass grade elections or reversals.

What is the impact of Pass-NoPass grading on financial aid and scholarships?

• Changing to Pass-NoPass grading may impact a student’s financial aid under guidelines for satisfactory academic progress. Students should seek the advice of the Financial Aid Office before making a final decision to elect Pass-NoPass grading.

For satisfactory academic progress (SAP), students must meet three criteria:

1. **Cumulative GPA**: Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. P and NP grades will not impact GPA. Letter grades of A through F will still impact GPA.

2. **Completion Rate**: Students are required to complete a minimum of 67% of the credit hours attempted at SIU Carbondale. Courses taken as Pass-NoPass count as courses attempted. Only those Pass-NoPass courses with a P grade count as completed.

3. **Maximum Timeframe**: Students are expected to complete their degree within a reasonable timeframe. The maximum number of credit hours for which an undergraduate student is eligible to receive aid is 180 attempted credit hours. Pass-NoPass courses are counted in the attempted credit hours.

• Merit-based scholarships require maintaining a minimum GPA in order to remain eligible for the scholarship. A student who has earned above the minimum GPA for a scholarship will not be impacted by receiving a pass grade. A student who is currently on satisfactory academic standing, due to being below the minimum GPA, should consider how best to increase their GPA to meet the scholarship minimum. Academic advisors can help students to calculate their GPA including repeat courses. If the minimum GPA is not earned a second semester, the scholarship may be revoked.

• If you are receiving other private or university-related scholarships, you will need to refer to the specific scholarship’s GPA requirements to determine the impact on your semester and cumulative GPA of selecting the Pass-NoPass grading option.

• Student athletes should contact their athletic advisor to address their unique NCAA eligibility situation prior to electing Pass-NoPass for any Fall 2020 courses. The NCAA has not specified what, if any, situations might be provided relief for minimum GPA and progress toward degree requirements.
What is the impact of Pass-NoPass grading on full-time student status and academic standing?

- Pass-NoPass courses have no impact on calculating student status. To be a full-time student in the Fall 2020 semester, undergraduate students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and most graduate students must be registered for 9 or more credit hours.

- Students should be aware of other potential ramifications of selecting Pass-NoPass grading. These include (but are not limited to) the following:
  
  o **Undergraduate Dean’s List**: Pass-NoPass or incomplete hours do not count towards the required twelve graded semester hours necessary to be eligible for consideration under this policy.
  
  o **Academic Standing**: Students currently on academic probation who receive P and NP grades for all of their courses will remain on probation, as this outcome will not impact GPA. Normal letter grades will continue to impact GPA as usual. **It has been decided for this Fall 2020 semester that no student currently on academic probation will be placed on academic suspension as a result of their Fall 2020 grades.**
  
  o **Course Transferability**: Students planning to transfer to or earn advanced degrees from other colleges/universities should check with those institutions to verify that Pass-NoPass grading will be accepted.

The deadline to change the grading option for courses is **Wednesday, December 16 at 11:59 PM Central Time**. No changes will be allowed after that date. Please direct any questions to the Office of the Registrar by email (Registrar@siu.edu).

Once the Registrar’s Office has finished processing Fall grades, including any Pass-NoPass grade conversions, those students who elected Pass-NoPass grading will have a transcript comment attached to their Fall semester work that will indicate that P/NP or S/U grades were permitted at SIU in Fall 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.