

**IUPUI, IUPUC, and IU Fort Wayne FAQ
Spring 2020 Flexibility on S and P grades**

Given the unusual nature of the Spring 2020 semester as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IUPUI Faculty Council Executive Committee has approved a [grade exception to the existing policy for S and P grades](#). These exceptions will be invoked for Spring 2020 only via a petition process after final grades have been submitted. Following are related questions and interpretations/answers. We will continue to add to the list as we receive more questions.

S (Satisfactory) AND P (Passing) GRADE DISTINCTIONS FOR PURPOSE OF THIS EXCEPTION

1. What is the difference between an S and a P grade during this period?

In order for a student to be approved for an S grade, their faculty-submitted grade in the class should have been a C or above. S grades will count toward degree requirements and pre-requisites. Credit hours are earned for the class but there is no GPA value. See more detail below about the potential advantages of the S grade.

Grades of C- through D- may be appealed for a P grade. P grades are not guaranteed to count toward specified degree requirements or pre-requisites but will count toward elective credit requirements. The credit hours are earned and there is no GPA value. See more detail below about the potential advantages of the P grade.

2. Will an S grade count for degree requirements and pre-requisites for future terms?

Yes; S grades in courses taken during the Spring 2020 term will count as meeting course-based prerequisites that require a grade of C or higher.

3. Will an S grade count for admission into an internal IUPUI, IUPUC, or IU Fort Wayne program?

Yes; S grades in courses completed in Spring 2020 only will meet admissions criteria.

4. Will an S grade count toward general elective and general education core requirements?

Yes; courses completed with an S grade in Spring 2020 only will count toward general elective and general education core requirements.

5. How is an S grade calculated into GPA?

It is not. S grades calculate into hours completed but are not calculated into GPA.

6. Will an S grade count against the maximum elective pass/fail classes that can be taken?

No; the S grade will not impact the limits for the number of elective courses that can be taken pass/fail.

7. Will a P grade count for degree requirements and pre-requisites for future terms?

No; P grades are not guaranteed to count toward specified degree requirements or pre-requisites.

However, if existing degree requirements or prerequisites already accept grades of D- or higher or grade of P, the P option will still meet those grade requirements.

8. Will a P grade count for admission into an IUPUI, IUPUC, or IU Fort Wayne program?

No; P grades will not be considered as meeting admissions criteria for internal programs.

9. Will a P grade count toward general elective and general education core requirements?

Yes and no; P grades will count toward elective requirements but NOT for General Education Core requirements.

10. Why won't a P grade count toward the General Education Core requirements?

While general education requirements can be satisfied with a passing grade (D-), many schools or majors specify a grade of C for at least some of their gen ed requirements. For this reason, the decision was made to only guarantee that S grades would count for gen ed requirements. If a student earns a D- in a gen ed requirement that only requires a passing grade, they might still benefit from the P grade option because it protects their GPA from the D- grade and the course will count toward any elective requirements in the student's major (assuming there is a different course the student can take in the future to satisfy that gen ed requirement*).

* in the case of the ENG-W 131/COMM-R 110 requirements, a student can only satisfy the requirements with those specified courses, meaning if the student takes a P grade for sp20 enrollment in these courses, the student will need to repeat these in the future and will only earn the credit hours once.

11. How is a P grade calculated into GPA?

It is not. P grades calculate into hours completed but are not calculated into GPA.

12. Will a P grade count against the maximum elective pass/fail classes that can be taken?

No; the P grade will not impact the limits for the number of elective courses that can be taken pass/fail.

13. Can a program use the original assigned grade from the faculty for admission decisions if the student elects the S grade? Some programs use cumulative GPA for admission which will not be accurate with S or P grades and some programs use a group of courses such as Math and Science to make decisions. There may be concern about selecting a class where the student may not be academically ready to be successful in the programs.

S grades in courses taken during the spring 2020 term must count toward program admission requirements. The original letter grades will not be available. Advisors should plan to have conversations with students about their level of preparedness for more advanced level courses, particularly if the student earned a P.

14. Is an I-Incomplete grade still an option?

Absolutely. Earning a letter grade will likely be the best option for the student. If the instructor and student are able to work out an arrangement where the student has the opportunity to end up with a reasonable earned grade, that is an excellent option and good use of the existing Incomplete grade policy.

15. Are all courses eligible for S or P grades?

Only courses taken during the spring 2020 term which were not completed by March 10, 2020 are eligible.

ACADEMIC STANDING

16. Academic Dismissal: No student will be dismissed from IUPUI, IUPUC or IU Fort Wayne programs as a result of their academic or course-based performance in Spring 2020. Normal regulations will be applied based on Fall 2020 grades.

17. Academic Probation: No student will be placed on academic probation as a result of their academic or course-based performance in Spring 2020. Normal regulations will be applied based on Fall 2020 grades.

18. How does this affect academic warning?

While the guidance from IUPUI faculty governance does not address “Academic Warning” or other school-based standing that is separate from the campus-wide undergraduate Probation and Dismissal policy, schools are encouraged to adopt the same pause on academic-based standing that has been adopted in the campus policy.

19. If a student is currently on academic probation and opts to petition for a P grade in Spring 2020, can the student be dismissed from the program?

All IUPUI, IUPUC and IU Fort Wayne programs are suspending dismissals based on course performance for Spring 2020. The P will not count toward the GPA and the student would need to repeat courses for which a satisfactory grade has not been earned and is needed.

20. How will an S or P grade affect Dean’s List or other academic honors?

Each academic unit will determine how to evaluate S and P grades into their Dean’s List and other academic honors/awards.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

21. How will the S grade be used for graduate and professional students?

The University Graduate School is advocating for flexibility in grading for graduate students by way of a special project or research or other creative academic activity that results in a standard letter grade. Those accommodations will be the best for the students. Professional schools are using some latitude with the S grade; it is available if determined best for the student and compliant with their academic program. Use of the S grade may impact future transfer of the course towards a more advanced graduate degree. Any conversations about these grades for graduate or professional students need to take into consideration the specific, potential risk for this population of student.

FINANCIAL AID and MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

22. How will an S or P grade affect Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and other financial aid awards?

IUPUI SAP rules require students to 1) maintain a 2.0 program GPA; 2) successfully complete at least two-thirds of attempted coursework, and 3) complete planned degree program within 150% of program length.

- S or P grades do not carry GPA value so will have no effect on the requirement to maintain a 2.0 program GPA
- S or P grades are considered successful completion, so will increase credit completion rate
- S or P grades result in earned credit hours and apply toward maximum timeframe program length

The IUPUI Office of Student Financial Assistance (SFS) also approves SAP appeals on “contract” with students, expecting them to successfully complete all courses and/or graduate as planned. In their review of Spring 2020 SAP contracts, SFS will provide latitude and/or appeal options to students that have had academic progress negatively impacted by the coronavirus crisis.

23. What is the impact of S and P grades on IU merit scholarships that have GPA minimums?

S and P grades do not carry GPA value so should not have an impact on merit scholarship renewal. S and P grades do result in earned credit hours, which is considered for merit scholarship renewal. If students are unable to meet merit scholarship renewal standards an appeal process with wider parameters will be planned.

24. What is the impact of S and P grades on any external scholarships (outside of IU)?

Students will need to contact any external donor or scholarship provider directly to determine the impact of S and P grades.

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

25. If students earn an S or P, can departments require students to repeat that course to fulfill some other requirement?

An S grade in courses taken during Spring 2020 should fulfill degree program requirements. A P grade may not fulfill those same requirements. Programs may require a course with a P grade (as with an F grade) be repeated to fulfill degree program requirements.

26. Will these grades be acceptable for other certifications (i.e. CPA exams), external regulators, or federal requirements a student may have to meet when working in a governmentally regulated lab or institution?

Individual departments associated with these programs will need to investigate. This information will be important to those in the advising community.

27. How do we handle cases where the exception P grade DOES satisfy pre-requisite requirements? For example, as a pre-requisite of Chem-C 105, the required grade in several Math classes is a C-.

The P grade will stand but the affected departments should provide class permissions for future semesters. In the example above, Chemistry would provide class permission to those who

completed the affected Math classes with a C-. The Registrar will work directly with these departments.

28. If a D- or higher is accepted by the degree program for certain courses, how will the P grade be recognized as acceptable for that degree requirement?

If the academic advisement report (AAR) was initially built to allow grades of D- OR P to count as satisfying a requirement, no updates are necessary as the grade will automatically apply. If D- grades were allowable, but P grades were excluded in the AAR, the department will need to apply an exception to satisfy the requirement.

GRADE REPLACEMENT

29. Can students grade replace the S if they take the course again?

There is no need to “replace” the S since it has no GPA value and program repeat rules will apply.

30. Can students use an S or a P in a spring 2020 class to replace a grade from a previous semester?

For Spring 2020 grade replacement, the originally assigned Spring 2020 faculty grade will be used as the basis for whether grade replacement may be applied. The grade replacement policy specifies that on the second attempt, the student grade must be the same or higher before proceeding with grade replacement. Registrar would verify the faculty-assigned grade on spring 2020 grade roster was equal to or greater than original grade and process accordingly. If applicable, the earlier grade will be “X’d” are removed from GPA calculation while the new S or P will remain on the record, also with no GPA value.

<i>Original grade</i>	<i>Repeated course 4202 (faculty-assigned grade)</i>	<i>Eligible for grade replacement?</i>
B	S (A-)	Yes.
B	S (B-)	No. B- is not higher than B.
D+	S (C)	Yes.
C-	P (D)	No. D is not higher than C-
D	P (C-)	Yes.
D	P (D-)	No. D- is not higher than D.
F	P (D+)	Yes.

This approach is compliant with the current grade replacement policy.

31. Will an S or P grade in replacement of a prior grade count against the 15-credit hour maximum for grade replacement?

No. As part of the flexibility option of the S and P grading for Spring 2020, neither an S or a P used for grade replacement will count toward the 15-credit hour maximum.

UNIQUE STUDENT POPULATIONS

32. Will an S or P grade have a negative impact on student-athletes and eligibility?

No, since this is a policy that applies to all students it will not negatively affect our athletes.

33. How will an S or P grade affect a veteran student who is using the GI Bill™ and Federal Tuition Assistance?

If a student is receiving the GI Bill™ or Federal Tuition Assistance, receiving an S-Satisfactory grade does not negatively affect their benefits because it will apply towards that particular course in their degree program. However, receiving a P (Passing) grade could translate to that student being required to return money to the Veterans Administration or Dept of Defense. In short, there could be serious financial implications. Because of this, if a student asking about having their grade changed to the Passing grade option is identified as a student receiving these benefits (based on the military student groups below), the advisor should refer that student to the Office for Veterans and Military Personnel (OVMP) for guidance. The OVMP will verify with the advisor if the grade change is best for the student in question. The advisor is then asked to add a note to the advising system (AdRx) certifying that there was discussion with OVMP about this decision.

Student Groups affected by this include RVGO, RV30, RV31, RV35, RV36, RV3C, RV3S and RV3V.

34. How will an S or P grade affect a student who is receiving tuition benefits from an employer or other outside IU source (outside sponsor)?

If a student's tuition is being paid by an employer or other source outside of IU (outside sponsorship) and the student is required to submit grades, then receiving the S (Satisfactory) or P (Passing) grade option could have a negative impact. The student may be required to return money to the payer or may not be eligible for reimbursement. The student must work with their individual sponsor to determine if a grade of S or P is allowable before moving forward with an S/P petition.

35. Will an S or P grade count toward 21st Century (21C) scholarship credit hour requirements?

Yes, S and P grades still result in a student earning credit hours for a course and will count toward the annual credit totals required to maintain 21C scholarship. Note that ICHE has provided some COVID-19 related relief: "the Commission will waive up to 15 credit hours for students who use either the 21st Century Scholarship, Frank O'Bannon Grant, or Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship during Spring 2020. These waived hours will be added to the Credit Bank once Spring 2020 credit completion data is reported. Students will not need to submit an appeal to receive the waived hours."

36. What are the potential effects of S and P grade exceptions for international students?

Need statement from OIA.

37. What guidance should be provided to students who are considering transferring to another university?

Students, faculty, and advisors are cautioned that grades of S or P may not be accepted as transfer credit by other institutions or graduate programs. Having said that, countless colleges and universities are making similar exceptions for Spring 2020 so there is hope across the academy that schools will be lenient.

38. How will Admissions be articulating courses and grades for transfer students coming to IUPUI, IUPUC or IU Fort Wayne that may have earned similar grades during the spring 2020 semester at another university?

Do we have any guidance/understanding on this?

39. Students often transfer between IU campuses. Are all campuses providing the same S and P options to students?

All IU campuses are providing some version of an S exception. IUPUI and the regional campuses are following the same process and providing an exception for both S and P grades. IUB is following a different process for S grades only. In any case, S grades in Spring 2020 should be considered as satisfactory across IU campuses. If a P grade has been satisfactory for a particular degree program that would not change.

PROCESS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

40. How does a student request an S or a P grade?

After faculty have submitted Spring final grades, a student has until Friday, May 29, 2020 to complete a request for to petition for an S or P grade. That form will be available on the Faculty/Staff Central and Student Central websites. One petition form per course will be required. The petition will require approval from the instructor and advisor to assure this grade change will be in the student's best interest based on their individual situation and program.

For students in the University Graduate School, the Dean's signature will be required as well.

Once completed, the advisor or UGS Dean should assure the form is submitted through the secure Registrar Processing Forms folder.

41. If the student is required to get permission (signatures) to take an S or P can that permission be denied?

Technically, yes, but it would be difficult to come up with a scenario as to why it would be denied if in the best interest of the student. Faculty are being encouraged to be understanding and creative and flexible, doing all they can to assist the student with some creative academic means/papers/projects to help these students get to a letter grade. No one is suggesting sacrificing program integrity but everyone is advocating for flexibility and creativity. Otherwise, the S and P exceptions are available. Flat out denying the S or P without offering other alternatives is not where we hope to be.

42. What period is covered by these exceptions for quarter-based programs?

Courses offered during the Spring 2020 quarter (March 3 – May 24) are eligible. No exceptions have been approved for Summer 2020 whether in semester or quarter calendar.