

FAMU-FSU ENGINEERING S/U GRADING POLICY FOR SPRING 2020 SEMESTER

A. General

This S/U policy is in effect for Spring 2020 semester only. It provides clarification on how the FAMU and FSU university S/U grading policies affect engineering courses, and therefore engineering students who are enrolled in them.

This policy is based on the *course* (i.e. courses offered by the College of Engineering) and the *course level* (undergraduate or graduate). It is not based on the *student's major or level*. For all university courses that were letter-graded at the beginning of Spring 2020, students will receive a letter grade, unless the course is S/U eligible *and* the student chooses an S/U grade. This is all consistent with both FAMU and FSU implementations of their S/U policies.

- For a course that was, at the beginning of Spring 2020, to be letter-graded: If a student wishes to receive a letter grade for a course, the student does **not** need to do anything to request the letter grade, and so the instructions in this policy are not needed for that course.
- For help deciding how letter and S/U grades will impact your GPA, here is a handy GPA calculator tool that FAMU and FSU students can use: <https://undergrad1.its.fsu.edu/gpacalc/>

B. Engineering undergraduate courses (and non-engineering courses)

Engineering undergraduate courses (< 5000 level courses) **will be S/U eligible**. This will be the same for FAMU and FSU students, both undergraduate and graduate students. (S/U eligibility of non-engineering courses is not determined by the college but rather by others – i.e., the college/department /program in which those courses are offered.)

Students will select S/U grading *by the course*; in other words, a student may select an S/U grade for none, some, or all of their courses that are S/U eligible. This is consistent with both FAMU and FSU policies.

To request an S/U grade, FAMU and FSU students, both undergraduate and graduate, will follow their university's S/U procedures and deadlines for:

- **non-engineering undergraduate** courses that are S/U eligible as determined by others
- **non-engineering graduate** courses that are S/U eligible as determined by others
- **engineering undergraduate** courses which will all be S/U eligible by default at FAMU and FSU

📖 FAMU students will submit their requests to **FAMU between April 15 and May 6**.
FAMU Registrar <http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?a=Registrar> will post instructions on April 13.
Here are two additional links for guidance:

New link: <http://www.famu.edu/Registrar/FAMU COVID-19 Grading Policy Modifications Spring 2020 - 3312020.pdf>

New link: <http://www.famu.edu/Registrar/Modified Grading Policy – Guidance for Students revised 03302020.pdf>

📖 FSU students will submit their requests to **FSU between March 30 and April 12**.
Instructions: https://tools.unicomm.fsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Changing-Letter-Grades-to-SatisfactoryNot-Satisfactory-Grades_v5_032520.pdf
Here are two additional links for guidance:
<https://news.fsu.edu/news/2020/03/25/student-guidance-on-spring-2020-grading-options-for-undergraduate-classes/>
<https://news.fsu.edu/announcements/covid-19/2020/03/25/spring-2020-grading-options-for-undergraduate-classes/>

For **engineering undergraduate courses**, S grades will be given for A, B, and C grades. U grades will be given for D and F.

C. Engineering graduate courses

Engineering graduate courses (5000-level courses and above) **that are now A-F letter graded will continue to be letter graded**. However, FAMU and FSU students, both undergraduate and graduate, may request an S/U grade through a process handled by the college, using the form *Permit to Register for a Course on a “Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory Grade” Basis*.

📖 The form must be obtained from Mindy Abate mabate@eng.famu.fsu.edu, completed by the student, and returned to Ms. Abate **by noon on April 12**. This is a firm deadline, and requests will not be accepted late. Ms. Abate will obtain Academic Dean’s signature on your behalf. Note that the form requires the student to obtain approval from the student’s advisor and course instructor. (Non-thesis master’s students without a faculty advisor will obtain the department graduate director’s signature in place of advisor.)

The instructor determines the conversion from letter grade to S/U grade. When the student seeks the instructor’s approval to receive an S/U grade, the student must communicate with the instructor about the grading scale that will be used to assign an S or U.

Note that **engineering graduate** courses will be set to S/U ineligible at FAMU and S/U ineligible by default at FSU. This means that a student will not be able to request an S/U grade using their university’s procedures, but rather through the college’s process explained in this Section C.

D. Impacts of S/U grading on engineering students and other policies

An S/U grade affects you as an engineering student as follows:

1. An S/U grade in a course does not impact your GPA. It does not lower it, nor raise it.
2. An S grade in any course (including math, science, and engineering courses required for the degree) will be considered by the college as passing. It will satisfy prerequisite requirements for subsequent engineering courses taken in later semesters.
3. A U grade will be considered by the college as not passing. If the course is required for your degree, you will need to retake the course. With a U grade, the course cannot be used to satisfy prerequisite requirements for subsequent courses.
4. If you have been conditionally admitted into an engineering major and you are taking the department's conditional course in which a B or better is required, you should seek advice from your advisor on whether you should choose S/U grading for the course.
5. From Spring 2020 semester onward, the college will not count U grades earned in Spring 2020 against your course repeat limits ~~(which is typically 2 repeats allowed while coded as pre-engineering and 3 repeats allowed while coded as engineering or as Upper Division at FSU).~~
6. ~~A student's academic standing in the department/college as of the beginning of Spring 2020 will be carried over into the next term enrolled.~~ **{A student's academic standing is determined by the university (FAMU or FSU).** Note that the college does not control a student's academic standing at either university.~~}~~
7. Selecting the S/U option will not impact the accreditation status of your engineering degree upon graduation.
8. There may be financial aid implications by choosing an S/U grade. An S grade will earn credit and is considered a passing grade; a U grade will not earn credit and is not considered passing. Keep this in mind when considering impacts on scholarships and financial aid, particularly for D grades: D grade earns you credit, but a U grade will not earn credit.

In other words, for undergraduate courses:

Letter grade	S/U grade	Is credit earned?	Is this passing the course?
A, B, C	S	Yes	Yes
D	U	Yes if D, No if U	No
F	U	No	No

E. Late drop deadline

The late drop deadline for FAMU-FSU College of Engineering students **has been extended through April 24**. If you wish to drop a course, please look for an email from Frederika Manciangli manciagl@eng.famu.fsu.edu for instructions.

Late drops requested during Spring 2020 semester will not count against a student's late drop limits.

F. Information for engineering instructors

Mechanism for entering grades and grade conversions

FAMU and FSU are handling grade entry for undergraduate courses differently at the university level. See below for details on how this will affect instructors at the end of Spring semester.

- For FAMU students, instructors will enter A-F letter grades into iRattler as usual.
 - FAMU Registrar will automatically convert the letter grades to S/U grades, for undergraduate courses that are S/U eligible (which will include all engineering undergraduate courses), if the student (undergraduate or graduate) has requested an S/U grade for the course through the appropriate process explained in Section B.
 - For graduate courses, the Research and Graduate Studies office at the college will submit grade changes to FAMU Registrar, for students who requested an S/U grade through the college process explained in Section C.
- For FSU students, instructors will enter grades into FSU Student Central as usual. However, A-F selections will be made available for some students, but S and U will be made available for students who requested an S/U grade through the appropriate process explained in Sections B and C.