

Grading – S/U (Undergraduates Only)

The undergraduate grading system for the University will include the following grades: *A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, E*.

The normative grading pattern is *A–E*. However, students may receive *S/U* grades in two circumstances:

1. In sections and/or courses that have been designated by departments or schools as *S/U* graded.
2. In courses normally graded *A–E* in which the student selects *S/U* grading.

Note: Final grades will appear as #*S*/#*U* to differentiate from department/school designated *S/U* grades.

Students are limited to receiving *S/U* opted grades only twice in their undergraduate academic career. Only courses below the 300 level may be *S/U* opted. These two courses of *S/U* may be in addition to all *S/U* grades received in department or school-designated *S/U* graded sections of courses. See also “Grading Option Deadline,” below. Note: In specific course approved by UAC Curriculum Committee, a department, school, or program may require *A–E* grading for majors.

A–E grades are defined as follows: *A*–Excellent, *B*–Good, *C*–Fair, *D*–Poor, and *E*–Failure. The grade of *E* is a failing grade and cannot be used to fulfill graduation requirements.

The grade of *S* is defined as equivalent to the grade of *C* or higher and is acceptable to fulfill graduation requirements. The grade of *U* (*C-* or lower) is unsatisfactory and is not acceptable to fulfill graduation requirements.

Grading Option Deadline

Effective with the Spring 2009 semester, students may change their option (*A–E* or *S/U*) for courses not departmentally designated for *S/U* grading until 15 class days after the midterm point (as indicated on the academic calendar). Changes in grading selections cannot be authorized beyond the date specified. The grading option may be changed via MyUAlbany by the date specified in the academic calendar. When discussing with an instructor their progress in a course, students should inform the instructor if they are taking the course *S/U*.

Consider the following:

You are advised to consider the following points when deciding to use the *S/U* Option

- A *U* means no credit, while grades of *C-*, *D+*, *D*, *D-* do earn credit
- If after opting for *S/U* you learn you are doing better than anticipated in the course, you MAY NOT change back to *A–E* grading after the *S/U* option deadline. This prohibition cannot be appealed.
- In some undergraduate majors, the *S/U* option is prohibited for some required core courses. Check major requirements in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

- UAlbany cannot guarantee the transfer or applicability of S Opted credits to other institutions (each institution determines its own rules). A few students have reported disadvantages when presenting S Opted credits to some graduate and professional schools.

You are urged to discuss these points with your advisor before submitting the *S/U* Option request.

Note: Graduate students may NOT opt for S/U grading in Undergraduate or Graduate courses.