Student Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory?

A: ‘S’atisfactory / ‘U’nsatisfactory is similar to Pass/Fail. If you are receiving a ‘C’ or better, you can request your grade be changed to “Satisfactory”; if you are receiving a grade below a ‘C’ you can request your grade be changed to “Unsatisfactory”. ‘S’atisfactory and ‘U’nsatisfactory grades do not count in your GPA. If you are doing well in most courses, ‘S’atisfactory / ‘U’nsatisfactory could be used to prevent one class from bringing down your GPA. It is best to discuss what is right for you with your faculty or instructor and/or an advisor. If you are receiving a D or F grade, you could request a ‘U’ and have it not count against you in your GPA.

Q: Why would I choose Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory?

A: We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has likely affected you, your family, your job, and many other aspects of your life. Allowing an ‘S’atisfactory / ‘U’nsatisfactory grading option may be helpful to you as you try to balance your life during this unprecedented time with the move to remote delivery. Further, national data shows that students who don’t normally take online classes often don’t do as well as they would in traditional classes. This can have an impact on completion and GPA and should be considered in the decision making process.

Q: What if I choose Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory for every class?

A: If you choose ‘S’atisfactory / ‘U’nsatisfactory for all courses, your term GPA could be 0.00 for the term. However, if you have ‘S’atisfactory courses, you will still be making progress towards your degree or certificate depending on your program requirements. It is best to talk to your faculty and instructors as well an advisor to determine if this option is best.
Q: How does S/U affect transfer to a university?

A: This depends on where the student plans to transfer:

- For in-state transfer to a Colorado university within the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (and Degrees with Designation), the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) is recommending all universities to accept Pass/Satisfactory grades in transfer during this time period. Their guidance is embedded here:

  CDHE Academic and Student Service Guidance COVID19 final 032720.pdf

- For out-of-state universities, students and their advisors should check with individual institutions. In some cases a class required for admissions may need to be repeated.

Q: I am a student athlete. How will this affect my eligibility?

A: According to NJCAA rules, all P/F (or S/U) grades count as a ‘C’. Therefore, student athletes need to work with their instructors, athletic directors, and advisors to determine if selecting an S/U grade is the right choice as it can impact academic standing and athletic eligibility.

Q: I am getting a B and worry it will bring down my GPA?

A: A ‘S’atisfactory grade will not affect your GPA, however a ‘S’atisfactory” grade is a ‘C’ or better. If your program requires a ‘B’ or better, choosing a ‘S’atisfactory grade could mean your course no longer counts towards your program requirements.

Q: I am getting a C. Should I take an Incomplete or switch to Satisfactory?

A: You may elect to take an incomplete if you believe you will be able to finish the class with a grade better than a ‘C’, especially if your program requires a ‘B’ or better. If you choose an incomplete and are not able to complete it, your grade will become an ‘F’ and affect your GPA. For Spring 2020, incompletes will get extended time for completion, from one semester to three. If you do not believe you will be able to complete your class, converting your ‘C’ to a ‘S’atisfactory will allow you to still receive a passing grade, without a ‘C’ bringing down your GPA.
Q: I am on academic probation, how will Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory affect me?

A: Because ‘S’atisfactory and ‘U’nsatisfactory grades do not affect your GPA, both options could negatively impact you and possibly put you on suspension. However, if you are not able to pass your classes with a ‘C’ or better, choosing ‘U’nsatisfactory will prevent you from lowering your GPA further. An advisor can help you determine what would be the right choice for your specific situation.

Q: How will Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory affect my financial aid?

A: If you receive an ‘U’nsatisfactory grade, it will count against financial aid completion, just like getting a ‘D’ or ‘F’. If you receive a ‘S’atisfactory grade, it will still count towards financial aid completion, similar to a ‘C’ or better.

NOTE: While the S/U does not impact the student GPA, some students may be impacted.

For example:
At the end of the fall term you were placed in an ‘ineligible for Financial Aid’ status. Prior to the spring term, you submitted an appeal to the Financial Aid Office. The appeal was approved for the spring term based on the condition that you successfully complete 100% of your coursework during the term with a 2.5 or greater GPA.

If you requested all ‘S’ grades for the spring, you will have satisfied the completion condition but your term GPA would be a 0.00. You would not meet the requirements of your conditional appeal approval and may be placed back into an ineligible status.

Students are encouraged to seek advising from the Financial Aid Office for guidance based on your individual situation. Appeals related to COVID-19 will be given the special consideration allowed under CARES Act guidance.