Spring 2020 Grading notification – Option for Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory

For Spring 2020 only, students currently enrolled at NIC will be offered an option of Satisfactory (S) and Unsatisfactory (U) grading, due to the disruption in course and program delivery caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This option is designed to support your ability to progress through and complete your studies, particularly for those planning to graduate at the end of this semester.

The dramatic changes of the last month have required everyone to adjust their lives in unexpected ways. Faculty have revised their courses in a very short time frame to provide access online whenever possible. We have asked a great deal of you and of the rest of the college community to learn how to work remotely. Letter grades will be applied to all courses unless you choose the S/U option.

Please carefully read through all of the FAQs below to decide whether the S/U grade option is a good choice for you, and if so, how to proceed in choosing this option.

What does S or U mean?
S means that you have earned academic credit. S shows that you have satisfactorily met the learning expectations for the course based on your faculty member’s evaluation of all your work. To receive an S, your work must be equivalent to at least a 2.0 or C grade or above for the course.

U means that your work was below a 2.0 and is unsatisfactory to earn credit.

Will an S or a U grade count toward GPA?
No, S and U will have no impact on your GPA, so it will not help or hurt your GPA.

Will an S grade count toward pre-requisite, program, GEM, Passport, and graduation requirements at NIC?
Yes, because the course must at least be equivalent to 2.0 or above. S therefore counts as credit in all NIC programs and as transfer credit to other colleges and universities. S also counts if you are repeating a course.

How would changing to S/U impact financial aid?
There is no impact to financial aid by choosing the S/U option.

Is an S/U grade automatic for spring classes?
No, you must request an S/U grade for each course. You may choose S/U for one, or more, or all of your courses this spring.

So if I want to keep my grades for the spring with no changes, I can do that?
Yes, nothing needs to be done to keep all your grading options for your current courses.
How do I make a good decision about whether to opt for S/U grades?
Please talk with faculty and your advisor(s) before making this decision, particularly if you are a student-athlete, considering application to competitive undergraduate programs, or pursuing graduate studies in the future, such as law or medical school.

Requesting the S/U option may be wise if you find you did not do as well as you expected and receiving a grade could hurt your GPA or for a course you will need to repeat. However, if you’re doing as well or better than you expected, stay with grades that apply to your GPA.

If I decide to go ahead with the S/U option, how do I do that?
Anyone who decides to opt for S/U grading must complete a brief form found at S/U Grade Option stating that you choose this option and understand that the S/U grade will become part of your official NIC transcript record.

When do I have to make this decision?
The S/U Grade Option Form must be submitted by Friday, May 29, by 2:30 p.m., the Friday after grades are posted for the semester. Any requests received after that date will not be accepted.

If I am currently on academic probation, or reinstated from dismissal, how does the revised S/U grade impact me?
The probationary status will remain in effect for Fall 2020, unless any graded credits on your spring semester record are sufficient to move your GPA above the 2.0 cumulative GPA required. Anyone remaining on Academic Probation in the fall will continue to have the benefit of an advisor’s support.

Who do I contact if I have more questions about the S/U grading provision for the Spring 2020 semester?
For general questions, contact Cardinal Central, at 208-769-3311 or via email at cardinalcentral@nic.edu.