

Faculty and Staff FAQ: UMD CITS S/N Grading Guidance and Course Withdrawal Updates, Spring 2021

Dates and Deadlines, Spring 2021

DATE	DESCRIPTION	TERM
Fri, Jan 29, 2021	Last day to drop a TRI 2 course without a grade of W. Course will not appear on the student's transcript.	Moose Lake TRI 2 (HIST)
Thurs, Feb 25, 2021	Last day to change S/N grading basis for classes that have not ended (Moose Lake High School).	Moose Lake TRI 1&2 (SPAN), TRI 2 (HIST)
Fri, Feb 26, 2021	Last day to drop a class without a petition for classes that have not ended, grade of "W" recorded (Moose Lake High School).	Moose Lake TRI 1&2 (SPAN), TRI 2 (HIST)
Fri, Mar 5, 2021	Uniform end date, Moose Lake TRI 2.	Moose Lake TRI 1&2 (SPAN), TRI 2 (HIST)
Fri, Apr 9, 2021	Last day to drop a spring semester course without a grade of W. Course will not appear on the student's transcript.	Regular spring semester
Fri, Apr 16, 2021	Last day to drop a TRI 2&3 combined course without a grade of W. Course will not appear on the student's transcript.	Moose Lake TRI 2&3 (MATH, PHYS)
Thurs, June 3, 2021	Last day to change S/N grading basis for classes that have not ended. (High schools on regular semester schedules AND Moose Lake TRI 2&3 combined)	Regular spring semester, Regular all year, Moose Lake TRI 2&3 (MATH, PHYS)
Fri, June 4, 2021	Last day to drop a class without a petition for classes that have not ended, grade of "W" recorded. (High schools on regular semester schedules AND Moose Lake TRI 2&3 combined)	Regular spring semester, Regular all year, Moose Lake TRI 2&3 (MATH, PHYS)
Fri, June 4, 2021	Uniform end date: Regular spring semester, regular all year, and Moose Lake TRI 3.	Regular spring semester, Regular all year, Moose Lake TRI 2&3 (MATH, PHYS)

S/N Grading Option

The decision to change to the S/N grading option or a W grade may have future educational impact(s).

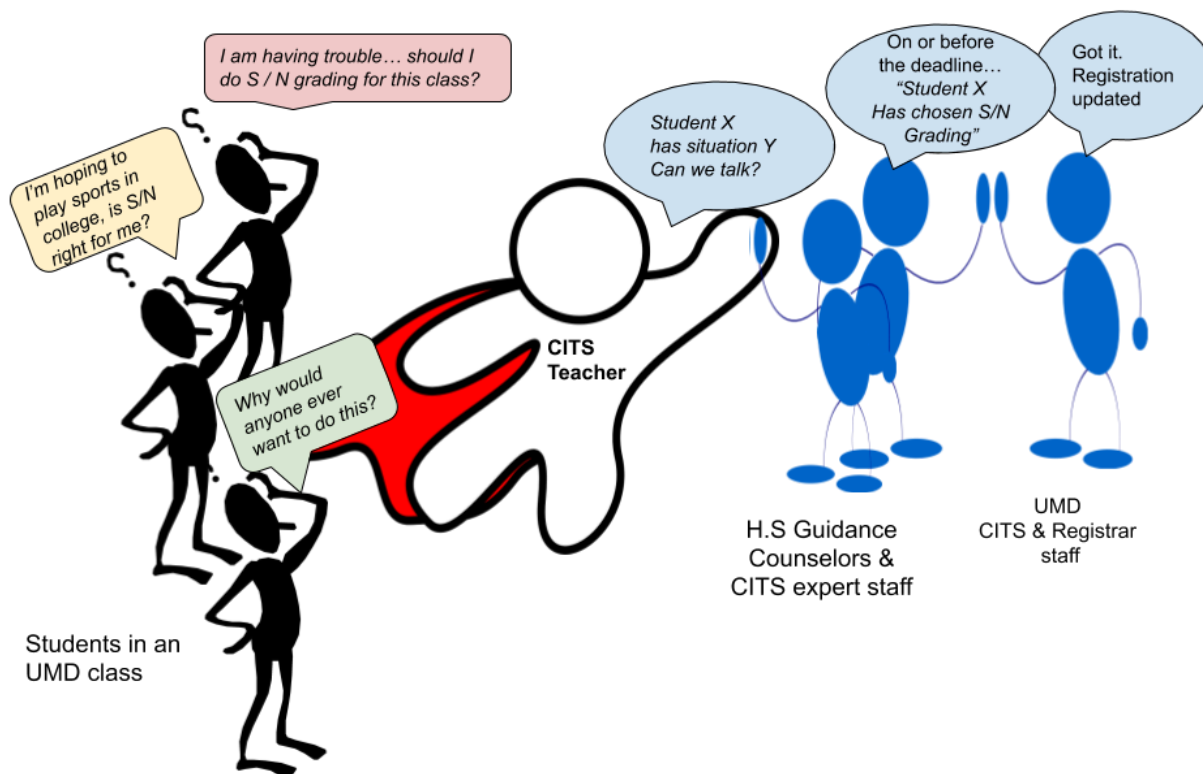
Perspectives:

- Most institutions accept an S grade for liberal education classes and pre-major/early major classes which is what UMD CITS classes are.
- Students who are recruited for college athletics, ROTC, etc. should contact their coach, ROTC recruiter, etc. before making any decision to switch to an S or N grading option.
- If the student goes to any institution other than the University of Minnesota the “letter grade GPA” does not transfer anyway.
- FACTS: For the last 5 years we at UMD CITS have a 40/60 split of UMD CITS students. 40% staying with the University of Minnesota, 60% going elsewhere or not going to college.
- Encourage your students to wait until close to the deadline to make this choice. The decision to select the S/N grading option is final and cannot be changed once it is submitted to UMD.
- Need more information, see the addendum below that we shared on the NACEP listserv for those bringing up the fear of “non-transfer” of S grades.
- [Link to UMD Grading and Transcript Policy](#). Includes definitions for S/N grades.
 - “S” represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C or better. The S grade will not carry grade points but the credits will count toward the student's degree program if allowed by the college or program.
 - “N” represents no credit and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see criteria for I grade). The N carries no grade points and the credits for the course do not count toward any academic degree program. The credit hours for the course do not count in the grade point average.

What is the process for changing to S/N grading?

Process Visuals

1. [Grading Signals](#) - visual to explain when students may need help
2. What does the process look like?



- CITS teachers communicate to their currently enrolled students that they **may but do not have to select** the S/N grading option for any of the following UMD CITS spring semester courses: regular spring semester, regular all year, trimester 2, or trimester 3 courses. **The following document may be shared with your students:** [Student FAQ: Spring 2021 UMD CITS S/N Grading Option Guidance](#)
- All students interested in S/N grading should next seek guidance from teacher(s) and/or high school guidance staff using this UMD S/N grading option guidance for spring 2021. This summary also contains a quick visual of the process.
- If it is determined that the S/N grading option is in the best interest of the student and it is a final decision, then and only then will, guidance office staff update their UMD version of the high school [google roster](#) sheet titled “Add, Drop, Swap, S/N” with the following:
 - Student Name and other identifying data
 - Change to Registration Needed - Select S/N from dropdown option

- Class_Seccion (example: ECON 1003/152)
- The CITS Program Coordinator will update the student's enrollment record in MyU with the S/N grading option.
- The CITS teacher will enter their A-F grading as normal, however, if the student has chosen the S/N grading option, MyU will automatically update with the following:
 - A grade of C- or higher: Converts to a grade of S. The student receives credit for the course. No impact to GPA.
 - A grade of D+ or lower: Converts to a grade of N. The student does not receive credit for the course. No impact to GPA.

FAQ Information/Advising For UMD CITS Students, Spring 2021:

[Link to student version of FAQ that may be shared with students:](#)

Q: What is the most important thing I should be thinking/doing right now about my current CITS classes and grades?

A: Can you keep going and earn a C- or better in the class(es) that are giving you trouble? Then perhaps changing to a S/N grade option is not best for you. Keep the other classes as A-F to keep boosting your cumulative GPA.

Q: Do I have to change to S/N (Satisfactory-Not Satisfactory) grading?

A: No. If you are managing well and earning the grade that meets your needs, you do not need to take any action.

- Your grades will remain as you originally registered for the class.
- Grades with positive GPA impact are often the best option.

Q: What is the difference between A-F and S/N grading?

A: In order to earn an S in a course, you need to earn a letter grade of at least C- or higher. If you earn a letter grade of D+ or lower, you will not receive credit for the course and a grade of N will be posted to your transcript. In A-F grading, a letter grade of D or higher is acceptable for earning academic credit.

Q: How will taking S/N courses affect my GPA?

A: Neither S nor N grades count in the University of Minnesota grade point average (GPA).

Q: Do I have to change all of my classes to S/N grading or can I choose?

A: You may choose class-by-class if you do or do not want the option to take the class for an S/N grade.

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Q: Will my CITS teacher still grade A-F if that is how the class is graded according to the syllabus?

A: Yes. Faculty will grade “as is.” They will not change based upon what grading basis you declare before the deadline. (See deadlines at the end of this document.)

How does this work?

- The official grade basis that is declared for you in MyU determines if the grade roster will convert the letter grade to a S grade for any grade earned of C- or higher.
- Any letter grade D+ or lower will convert to a N grade.
- Neither S/N grades are computed in your official University of Minnesota GPA calculations. S/N grades display on your official University of Minnesota transcript.

Q: Does switching to S/N mean a course will be easier?

A: Course materials, assignments, and requirements will be identical for students taking a course A-F or S/N. To earn a grade of S in a course, students need to perform at a level of C- or higher in the class.

Q: If I change my grading basis to S/N, and later change my mind, may I change it back?

A: No. If you do choose to change an A/F grading option to S/N, you may not change your mind later and switch back to A/F. You have until the deadline to make your decision. (See deadlines at the end of this document.)

Q: What if I receive a good, final grade in a class, may I ask for an exception to switch back to A-F?

A: No. If you do choose to change an A/F grading option to S/N, you may not change your mind later and switch back to A/F. You have until the deadline to make your decision. (See deadlines at the end of this document.)

Q: May I ask my CITS teacher to grade some of my assignments S/N and some A-F?

A: No, you must choose one option for your class. The teacher will assign your final grade based on their syllabus requirements or subsequent communications to the entire class regarding grading.

Q: Are these changes to the S/N grading options for students permanent?

A: No, these changes are for the spring 2021 semester only.

Q: I am a dual enrollment (PSEO or CITS) student. I plan on playing college varsity athletics. Can I take S/U, S/N, P/F grades and still be eligible to compete given that the NCAA has told my school that they are not changing their guidelines at this time for S/U, P/F, S/N grading on my high school transcript?

A: Each prospective student-athlete has a different situation with their NCAA initial eligibility. The NCAA will turn a “passing” grade into a D for NCAA GPA purposes. All prospective student-athletes are encouraged to send their high school transcript to their coach and ask for

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an evaluation of core courses and sliding scale. This will determine if they can change their courses to pass/fail and still meet NCAA requirements. Each institution has an Athletic Compliance Officer. They too are a good source of information about the NCAA and eligibility.

Q: I am a dual enrollment (PSEO or CITS) student. I plan to join ROTC or the military. Does S/N grading have any impact on my eligibility?

A: Have students contact the recruiter. Each branch has experts who will assist in the specifics of each student's unique situation.

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Addendum: Perspective on S grades & transfer

April 7, 2020, Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships Discussion List <PARTNERSHIP@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU>,
Author: Carla L Boyd, UMD Registrar and CITS Director

In this time of extraordinary circumstances the Department of Education is asking all institutions who receive Title IV funding to work with students and their situations. Resources: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

Addendum

Editorial perspective from a former and current Big Ten system academic advisor and institutional leadership:

If a high school family and their student has an environmentally and personally impacted situation where an "S" grade (if allowed by the University offering the dual enrollment) is the BEST situation for that student to continue making progress toward their degree (s) during COVID-19, then as professionals we need to consider what is best for the STUDENT right now and expect that institutions of higher education will accept those "S" grades as transfer credit just as if it was any other passing grade. Fear of "not transferring" should not have more priority over what the student needs right now to be successful and earn a passing grade. "S" is passing.

If the institution that the student is considering does not accept this in their academic policy for transfer of credit, then I encourage ANY student to consider their options and go elsewhere for their post-secondary education. That institution may not share the same values of student success as of institutions who are committed passionately to student success and learning.