

Simon Fraser University
Maggie Benston Centre 1100
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3042
FAX 778.782.3080

gradstudies@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/grad

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 30, 2020
FROM Jeff Derksen,
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies
Committee (SGSC)
RE: Grading Practices and Deadlines under Public Health Emergency



For information:

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of March 27, 2020, SGSC approved emergency graduate policy and procedure changes, **effective Spring 2020 only:**

- 1) Course withdrawal date: extension to course withdrawal deadline for graduate students to April 9, 2020.
- 2) GGR 1.5.2: A temporary change to GGR 1.5.2 to allow Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory notations count towards the minimum program requirements.
- 3) GGR 1.5.3: a temporary change to the process for Aegrotat standing (AE), which may be requested by a student and applied upon the recommendation of the instructor or the graduate program chair when the course is rendered incomplete due to a medical situation.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION SGSC members DATE March 27, 2020

FROM Jeff Derksen, Chair of Senate
Graduate Studies Committee
(SGSC)

RE: Grading Practices and Deadlines under Public Health Emergency

Given the current public health emergency, exceptional measures are called for to create more flexibility for grading practices and provide options for graduate courses mounted in the current term. These amendments also provide similar solutions and options to graduate students as were recently supplied to SFU's undergraduate students.

Modifications in three areas that students, staff and faculty have identified as having the most impact are proposed: course withdrawal date; easier access to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option on a student by student basis; and the option for Aegrotat Standing (AE) notation.

Please vote for these electronically by 4:30 today, Friday March 27.

MOTION 1:

That SGSC approve an extension to course withdrawal deadline for graduate students to April 9, 2020 **effective Spring 2020 only.**

Rationale:

This date change allows students a greater period to withdraw from a course in this extraordinary term. Extending the course withdrawal deadline to April 9, the last day of classes for the Spring 2020 term, harmonizes the graduate course withdrawal deadline with undergraduate date. The normal transcript notation of "WD" would apply, with no additional requirement for documentation.

MOTION 2:

That SGSC approve a temporary change to GGR 1.5.2 to allow Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory notations count towards the minimum program requirements **effective Spring 2020 only.**

Rationale:

Modifying the existing S/U grading basis option that students can presently initiate allows more options for students' evaluation in this extraordinary term. In policy, at the graduate level students already "may request permission to have the grading basis on an S/U basis by applying to the supervisory committee" for an individual course after receiving their final

grade.” However, a switch to an S/U grading scheme is not applicable for courses included within a student’s minimum course work requirement. This motion allows students to opt for S/U grading for courses that count toward their minimum course requirements. After discussion with their supervisor, students can opt for the S/U by applying to do so to the course instructor.

FROM: S Grades (current definition in GGR 1.5.2)

The designation S (satisfactory) will be given when a student successfully completes a course graded on a satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) basis. If a course is not graded S/U an individual student may request permission to have the grading basis on an S/U basis by applying to the supervisory committee. ~~If that committee concurs, the request will be submitted to the graduate program committee for final approval. None of the student's minimum course work requirement under 1.7.2 may be completed S/U.~~

TO: S Grades (proposed revision)

The designation S (satisfactory) will be given when a student successfully completes a course graded on a satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) basis. If a course is not graded S/U, an individual student, **upon consultation with their supervisor or graduate program chair, may request the course instructor to use the S/U grading basis. For the Spring 2020, the student's minimum course work requirement may be completed S/U.**

MOTION 3:

That Aegrotat standing (AE) for a particular course may be requested by a student and applied upon the recommendation of the instructor or the graduate program chair **effective Spring 2020 only.**

Rationale:

The rarely used grading of Aegrotat standing (AE) has been used in the cases when a course was rendered incomplete (such as a medical situation with a faculty member). Given that the unusual situation of this term, with the switch-over to online course delivery, students can apply for an AE notation to recognize the course was incomplete.

FROM: AE (current definition in GGR 1.5.3) In exceptional circumstances, Aegrotat standing (AE) may be awarded in an incomplete course on medical or compassionate grounds by the registrar acting on the recommendation of the instructor or department chair. ~~Written evidence must substantiate such a request, given that the course requirements have been substantially fulfilled. This evidence normally must be received by the registrar or department within 96 hours of a scheduled final exam or within 96 hours of the last day of term lectures for which such standing is requested.~~

TO: AE (proposed revision)

In exceptional circumstances, Aegrotat standing (AE) may be awarded in an incomplete course on medical or compassionate grounds by the registrar acting on the recommendation of the instructor or graduate program chair.