



McGill

School of Continuing Studies École
d'éducation permanente

SCS Policy on the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Grading Option for Courses Taken in Winter 2020

1. What is the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option?

The S/U option is an alternative to the standard letter-grade system whereby a final course grade of “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “F” etc. is recorded on a student’s Transcript or Record of Study. Instead, an “S” or “U” is recorded.

Under normal circumstances, students may select the S/U option for elective courses or those outside their area of specialization. Courses with final grades of “S” or “U” are not included in GPA calculations.

In addition, under normal circumstances, the S/U option does not apply to graduate-level courses and cannot be counted towards undergraduate major or minor program requirements.

Ordinarily, students must select the S/U option before the end of the add/drop period.

2. What changes has McGill made to the S/U option for winter 2020 courses?

As announced by the University, *all students, both undergraduate and graduate*, may exercise the S/U option for their winter 2020 courses, provided that doing so would not run counter to any requirements, timelines, or policies set by their respective programs of study or external accreditation bodies. **Each Faculty/School has discretion to identify courses and programs that are not eligible for the S/U option.**

Exceptionally for the winter 2020 semester, students can select the S/U option for courses that count towards program requirements. As is the case under normal circumstances, such courses will not be counted in the calculation of a student’s GPA.

Exceptionally for the winter 2020 semester, students have until **May 22nd, 2020** to select the S/U option.

3. When can I apply for the S/U option?

Students have until **May 22nd, 2020** to select the S/U option for courses taken in the winter 2020 semester. By this time, you will know your normal final letter grade (“A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “F”, etc).

4. How do I apply for the S/U option?

The University has developed an [S/U Request form](#), which will be available on **April 14, 2020 at 9:00 am EST** (local Montreal time). Students have until **May 22nd, 2020** to select the S/U option.

5. Do I need to notify the School or my instructor if I select the S/U option?

No. When a student submits the [S/U Request Form](#), the School will be notified. The request form will be reviewed by the School's Client Services unit to determine whether or not the course(s) is/are eligible. **Once the request form has been processed**, you will receive a confirmation email with the eligible course(s) flagged as S/U.

6. Do I need to submit an S/U Request Form for each course?

No. In fact, **you are limited to one S/U Request form submission**, but you can identify multiple courses on this request.

7. Once I submit the S/U Request form, can I change my mind?

No. Choosing the S/U option is final. Once a student has chosen the S/U option for a course, *there will not be an opportunity* for the student to reverse this decision.

Students are encouraged to wait until they have received their final grade before choosing the S/U option.

8. Can the S/U option be used for non-credit courses?

With the exception of pre-requisite courses required for admission to a program, non-credit courses offered by the School are eligible for the S/U option.

Please note that you will need to log into the [S/U Request form](#) using your McGill credentials, not your Destiny/Athena credentials. If you need assistance with this, please contact Client Services at 514-398-6200.

9. I am in a program that either leads to or prepares me for professional accreditation. Can I choose the S/U option for these courses/programs?

SCS permits students to take the S/U option for such courses/programs. **However, it is the student's responsibility to check with the relevant professional order/association in advance to confirm whether or not an "S" grade will be recognized.**

The following professional orders have confirmed that they *will* accept "S" grades for courses taken in the winter 2020 semester:

- The Canadian Institute of Chartered Business Valuators ([CICBV](#))
- The Order of Chartered Professional Accountants ([CPA](#))

We nevertheless urge you to confirm with professional orders/associations directly to ensure that you have the most up-to-date and accurate information.

10. Can I select the S/U option for credit courses offered by the Department of Language and Intercultural Communication (LIC)?

Students taking LIC credit courses in the winter 2020 semester **should not select the S/U option** because their ability to move on to a higher level will depend on their meeting the required grade of 65% (B-).

11. Can I select the S/U option for credit courses offered by the Translation Studies unit?

An “S” grade will be accepted **so long as the numerical grade can also be provided and that it meets the minimum requirements** for admission to a program or progression to the next level:

Please consult [this page in the SCS e-calendar](#) for minimum requirements for admission to or progression within Translation Studies certificate and diploma programs.

12. Can I select the S/U option for CCOM 206, Communication in Engineering?

Yes. The Faculty of Engineering has confirmed that even though CCOM 206 is a required course for most Engineering students, it can be taken under the S/U option.

13. I am seeking [Advanced Standing](#) for one or more courses. Will SCS accept an “S” grade for these courses?

An “S” grade will be accepted so long as the numerical grade can also be provided and that it meets the minimum requirements. Please see [this page in the SCS e-calendar](#) for complete information.

14. Can I select the S/U option if I am on Academic Probation?

No. In order to graduate from McGill, students need a minimum GPA of 2.0. Courses taken under the S/U option are not calculated in the GPA. It is therefore not in your interests to take the S/U option.

15. Will these same options be available after the winter 2020 semester?

No. The special measures for the S/U option implemented in winter 2020 will not be available for the spring/summer 2020 semester or beyond.