



To: Susan Harden, Chair  
Faculty Council

From: David Dalton, Chair  
Graduate Council

Date: October 13, 2022

RE: Proposal for Grade of SP/UP (Satisfactory Progress/Unsatisfactory Progress) Option  
REVISION

The Graduate Council has voted to approve new language to clarify guidelines surrounding the assignment of SP and UP grades. Graduate Council representatives solicited feedback from their college GPDs prior to the passage of the proposal. No faculty expressed concern in any of the colleges.

We ask that the Faculty Council discuss this as well.

Thank you,

David Dalton

*Office of the Graduate Council  
Dr. David Dalton, Chair  
Ms. Annette Parks, Secretary*

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To: Dr. David Dalton, Chair  
Graduate Council

From: Katherine Hall Hertel, Associate Dean Graduate Academic and Student Affairs  
Sandra Krause, Assistant Dean for Graduate Academic Services

Date: August 23, 2022

RE: Proposal for Grade of SP/UP (Satisfactory Progress/ Unsatisfactory Progress) Option **REVISION**

The Graduate Policy Equity Audit Working Group reviewed the Grade of SP/UP (Satisfactory Progress/ Unsatisfactory Progress) Option. Although there were no policy changes, we want to provide the Graduate Council the opportunity to review the updated language.

**Proposal: Clarify Grade of SP/UP (Satisfactory Progress/ Unsatisfactory Progress) Option**  
**Location: Degree Requirements and Academic Policies/ Grading**

**Current:**

**Grade of SP/UP (Satisfactory Progress/ Unsatisfactory Progress) Option**

The grade of SP (satisfactory progress) or UP (unsatisfactory progress) is assigned to graduate coursework for research activity that extends over more than one semester, typically dissertation or thesis research. In these cases, the research is ongoing so only the progress made in that term can be evaluated. SP indicates the student made acceptable progress as assessed by their advisor. A grade of UP indicates the student did not make agreed upon progress. Neither a grade of SP nor UP will factor into a student's GPA. Credit graded as UP will not count toward the required credit hours for the degree, but will apply toward the total credit hours earned and noted on the transcript.

It is possible for a student to be registered in multiple sections of research in a given semester. The student could earn both SP and UP grades that term, thereby making partial progress. Any grade of UP must be accompanied by written feedback from the faculty advisor, which explains what is expected for a grade of "satisfactory" progress.

The second semester in which a grade of UP is earned will trigger a discussion between the student and advisor about lack of progress in the program. This discussion will include all possible recommendations from the advisor, such as pursuing a new topic, moving to a new advisor or even termination from the program. The advisor will discuss any recommendation to terminate a student for lack of progress with the Graduate Program Director prior to forwarding such a request to the Graduate School for consideration.



Note: Graduate students cannot select the Satisfactory Progress/Unsatisfactory Progress option for a standard graded course.

**Proposal:**

**Grade of SP/UP (Satisfactory Progress/ Unsatisfactory Progress)**

The grade of SP (satisfactory progress) or UP (unsatisfactory progress) is assigned to graduate coursework for research activity that extends over more than one semester, typically dissertation or thesis research. It is important to align expectations as to what acceptable progress looks like, particularly when research goes beyond one semester.

Students receive a grade of SP (Satisfactory Progress) or UP (Unsatisfactory Progress) indicative of meeting these expectations. These grades are not factored into the GPA but do count toward hours attempted; and in the case of a grade of SP, toward hours earned and degree progression. The credit indicates that the student continued to be enrolled, which protects status related services that require enrollment. The assessment of progress is managed by the student's advisor and graduate program director.

It is possible for a student to be registered in multiple sections of research in a given semester. The student could earn both SP and UP grades that term, thereby making partial progress.

If an advisor assigns a grade of UP, they must discuss the reasons for the grade as well as expectations for remediation and research continuance with the student; and summarize the outcome in writing.

When a student receives a second or subsequent grade of UP, the advisor and the graduate program director will review and discuss the lack of progress with the student and document their findings which may include a recommendation to the Graduate School to terminate the course of study.

**Associate Provost for  
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