

Subject: Satisfactory/Failure (S/E) Grading Option Now Available to Warner Students

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 11:00:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Warner School Dean's Office

To: Warner School Dean's Office

Dear Warner Students,

Confronting COVID-19 has prompted educators at all levels to reconsider their grading practices for the semester. As a temporary measure, students enrolled in Warner courses will now have the option to be assigned Satisfactory/Failure (S/E) grades in lieu of our traditional letter grades (A-E). Our decision to provide this option is based on our desire to foster student learning, and counter, in some way, the anticipated disruption to students' academic, professional, and personal lives.

If you select the S/E option you must inform your instructor no later than the date of the last scheduled class session. You can notify your instructor earlier if you choose the S/E option. If you do not inform your instructor you selected the S/E grade option before the date of the last class session, you will be assigned a letter grade. You may still request that your instructor assign you an Incomplete (I) at the end of the semester should circumstances warrant doing so.

Your instructor will soon reach out to describe what level of performance will constitute an S or E when compared to the standard set for assigning letter grades in your syllabus. If you are enrolled in courses that lead to NYS certification/licensure, you must still complete all of the "key assessments" and submit them to Taskstream. Your instructor will inform your class whether it is subject to this accreditation requirement.

Before deciding to choose the S/E option you should determine if there are consequences if you do so. Below I note two, but there may be others that you should consider:

- 1) Will receiving an (S/E) rather than a letter grade affect your tuition reimbursement from your employer?
- 2) If you are an international student, does receiving an (S/E) rather than a letter grade affect any agreements you have with your country to study abroad?

Neither your instructor nor your advisor would be able to provide answers to these questions, so when questions such as these arise, I encourage you to direct them to informed sources (e.g., employer or UR International Services Office). One final consideration of note, S/E grades do not count toward a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). While Warner does not currently report a GPA on transcripts even when letter grades are assigned, this might change when we move to our new student management system - UR Student - later this year.

Our hope is that affording you the option to choose between earning an S/E or letter grade will further your ability to make academic progress as you attend to current and anticipated disruptions in your professional and personal lives.

Warm Regards,

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