To accommodate the extraordinary academic, social and economic conditions created by COVID-19 in Spring 2020, the NMSU system eased deadlines for opting in to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading for all undergraduate and graduate courses. Students may now choose to opt-in to S/U grading through May 6th, 2020, and normal limitations (see below) will be suspended, allowing students to opt for S/U in any number of enrolled courses. The deadline for students to Withdraw from a course has been extended to April 17th, 2020.

**What grading options are available for students for Spring 2020?**
The default grading scheme for students remains the same, e.g., traditional letter grades. For Spring Semester 2020 only, students may also opt to change their grading scheme to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) through May 5th, 2020. Students may also Withdraw (“W”) by April 17th, 2020.

**How is an S/U different from a letter grade?**
S-Satisfactory grades represent a student learned enough to satisfy the learning outcomes of your course. For undergraduates, this means a C- or better, for graduates it can vary by department so they should check first. The key difference for students who opt for S/U is the grade is not used to calculate their GPA (for better or worse.)

**How will this be communicated to students?**
NMSU shared this news via system-wide messages (via email, my.nmsu.edu) with students on March 30th, 2020. Given the extenuating circumstances of the Spring 2020 semester, faculty are asked to modify their syllabi to account for compressed schedules, switching to online, various grading options, etc. All faculty should be communicating closely with students, and sharing word of this option with students who may be facing extenuating circumstances like illness, childcare, technology and employment challenges.

**What does an S/U mean for courses that are prerequisites for subsequent NMSU courses and graduation?** “S” grades fulfill the prerequisite requirements for NMSU courses; “U” grades will not.

**How will this effect admission to XXX (school, program, etc.)?**
Programmatic and college admissions procedures vary widely. If a student mentions they are on a trajectory toward a competitive admission program (graduate or professional school, limited admission health program, etc.) please direct them to that program/college’s guidance on grade requirements.

**Can I give my whole class S/U grades?**
No, students opt-in to S/U grading on a course-by-course, student-by-student basis. S/U grades may not work for some students, so the default scheme for grading will remain letter grades.

**Should I give a student an I Grade instead?** Incomplete (I) grades remain an option, but please note that I-grades do not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress for students (while letter grades and S/U do) and can adversely impact their Financial Aid eligibility.

4.6.20