

**Ursinus College Financial Aid SAP Policy Addendum:
Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading for Spring 2020 Semester**

(Effective 4/21/2020 for evaluation of the 2019-2020 academic year)

Introduction

With the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, Ursinus College has ceased in-person/in-classroom education and has moved to a remote learning format in order to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. As a result of the shift to remote learning, the option has been provided to students to be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale instead of receiving letter grades. The current [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#) does not have any guidance for the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade scale because it was previously not possible for a student to receive an entire semester's worth of grades on this scale. In light of the recent events and adjustments to our new circumstances as an institution, this addendum will provide further definition to the current [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#). This addendum will be in effect immediately and will be used, in conjunction with the current policy, to determine students' progress at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. If any future terms provide this grading scale option to students as a result of COVID-19, the [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#) will be updated accordingly at the time that such a decision is made.

The extended requirements outlined in this addendum do not change how both the Maximum Timeframe Standard and Quantitative Standard are measured in the current [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#). Below we will outline the effects that the new grading option has on the Qualitative Standard and how students will be evaluated for the Qualitative Standard at the end of the Spring 2020 semester.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grades and Eligibility

Students who have elected to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades for the Spring 2020 semester

There are two main groupings of students who will potentially be effected by electing to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades for the Spring 2020 semester: 1. Students who have established a GPA through previous course work attempted at Ursinus College prior to the Spring 2020 semester and 2. Students who have not established a GPA through previous course work at Ursinus College prior to the Spring 2020 semester. The effects that Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades will have on these two groups will differ.

1. Students with an established GPA at Ursinus College prior to the Spring 2020 semester
Students who have an established GPA at Ursinus College prior to the Spring 2020 semester will be evaluated on the Qualitative Standard as outlined on the current [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#). We understand that Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grades will not have a direct impact on the GPA that has already been established. Effectively, this means students in this category will be evaluated on their GPA from the end of the Fall 2019 semester. Unfortunately, there is no effective way to equate Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades directly to letter grades and GPA, especially in combination with an already established GPA. In cases where a student fails to meet the Qualitative Standard and the student appeals, the SAP Appeal Review Committee (SARC) will take into account the proportion of attempted coursework that was passed with a Satisfactory grade within the Spring 2020 semester when making their determination of whether or not they will grant the appeal.

2. Students without an established GPA at Ursinus College prior to the Spring 2020 semester

Students who have not established a GPA at Ursinus College prior to the Spring 2020 semester will have an effective GPA of 0.00 as the Qualitative Standard is evaluated. The predominant group of students who fall into this category are students who began attending Ursinus College starting in the Spring 2020 semester. In these cases, our Qualitative Standard will mirror our Quantitative Standard for the evaluation of the 2019-2020 academic year at the end of the Spring 2020 semester. If a student in this category passes 67% (rounded – effectively 66.5% or higher) of their attempted credits with a Satisfactory grade, they will pass the Qualitative Standard during evaluation. If a student in this category fails to pass 66.5% of their attempted credits with a Satisfactory grade, they will not pass the Qualitative Standard during evaluation. The same standard will be used to evaluate the academic records for the renewal of merit scholarships for students in this category instead of the 2.00 requirement outlined in the current [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#). Students who do not meet these requirements will not be eligible to renew their merit scholarship. If a student fails to meet this requirement due to extenuating circumstances, they will have the opportunity to submit an appeal to the Office of Student Financial Services to request consideration for probationary continuation of their merit scholarship.

Students who have not elected to exclusively receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades for the Spring 2020 semester

Students who have not elected to receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades for the Spring 2020 semester will be evaluated on all 3 standards (Maximum Timeframe Standard, Qualitative Standard, and Quantitative Standard) as outlined in the current [Financial Aid SAP Policy](#).