Georgia State University Policy

2.40.08 Pass/Fail Grading Option

Policy Summary

To encourage undergraduate students to explore subjects outside their major, they may enroll in elective courses outside their major and opt to be graded on a pass/fail (satisfactory-unsatisfactory) basis.

Full Policy Text

Students may enroll in courses taught on a pass/fail (S-U) basis subject to the following conditions:

1. Course taken pass/fail (S-U) will appear on the official transcript with a grade of "S" or "U." These grades do not count in the computation of the grade point average.

2. Resident credit earned with a grade of S will count toward meeting the 120 hour semester requirement and/or 39 hour academic residence requirement (if not already met through major/dept/college requirements). Transfer credit awarded with a grade of S counts towards all degree requirements.

3. Courses taken pass/fail (S-U) will not count toward:
   a. core curriculum requirements, Areas A-F
   b. courses required for a major or minor, or
   c. courses that satisfy college requirements.

   Colleges may authorize exceptions to b. and c. but such exceptions must be specifically authorized by the college through the college’s curriculum approval process.

4. No more than 10 hours of courses taken pass/fail (S-U) at Georgia State may be counted towards an undergraduate degree. Courses taken on a pass/fail (S-U) basis beyond this limit will earn institutional credit but will not count toward graduation.

5. To take a course on a pass/fail (S-U) basis, the student must meet all prerequisites and all other enrollment restrictions (e.g., GPA requirements, co-requisites, etc.).

6. The request to be graded pass/fail (S-U) in a course must be made before the end of late registration and cannot be changed in any way at any time.

7. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor by the end of the first week of classes and obtain from the instructor the requirements necessary to earn a grade of S.
8. The normal withdraw policy will apply to courses taken pass/fail (S-U). Withdrawals in courses taken pass/fail (S-U) count against a student’s limit of withdrawals with a W just as courses graded A-F do.

9. Colleges/departments will decide which courses may be taken on a pass/fail (S-U) basis. Such decisions must be approved according to departmental/college curriculum change policies.

10. This motion applies only to undergraduates.

Administration of Policy

Mandating Authority: Senate

Responsible Office(s):
Office of the Registrar, 2nd floor Sparks Hall, 3-2275
Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards

Responsible Executive(s):

Policy History

Approving Body: Senate

Rationale or Purpose

The pass/fail option is intended to encourage students to explore subjects outside their major without putting their GPA at risk.

Additional Information

Original University Senate motion to expand the Pass/Fail Grading Option was approved in Spring 2007. See: http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwphl/adandst/PassFail.html

Motion to repeal Pass/Fail Grading Option was approved by University Senate in Spring 2008. See: http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwphl/adandst/PassFail2.pdf

Most recent motion to Revise the Pass/Fail Grading Option approved in Spring 2009. See: http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwphl/adandst/S-U.pdf

Additional Helpful Resources

Faculty Handbook http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/fhb.html
Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs: http://enrollment.gsu.edu/catalogs/