FAQ - Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Option

1. What is S/U option?

The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option allows a student to take a course on an ungraded basis (i.e. no letter grade e.g. A, B etc). For a course opted to be graded on S/U basis, a student will receive AU for the course only if he attains a 'Satisfactory' (S) grade. A course will be indicated as 'S' if the final grade obtained is a 'D' or better. Similarly, if the final grade is lower than a 'D', an 'Unsatisfactory' (U) grade will be assigned to the course. The descriptor 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory' will appear in the results slip and the transcript issued by the University.

2. What is the aim of S/U Option?

The S/U option aims to encourage students to focus on exploring courses beyond their core disciplinary studies without undue concern that their GPA would be adversely affected.

3. When is the period to declare S/U Options?

Students will receive a notification email on the declaration period for the current semester before the recess week. Students are responsible to check and adhere to the scheduled deadline in the email and website.

4. How many AUs can a student choose to be graded on S/U basis?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>S/U Quota</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-year</td>
<td>12 AU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year (except for Biomedical Sciences programme)</td>
<td>12 AU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- For students admitted to Year 1</td>
<td>9 AU</td>
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<tr>
<td>- For students admitted to Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences programme</td>
<td>9 AU</td>
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5. Are Pass/Fail courses included in the S/U option?

Pass/Fail (P/F) courses, including courses taken at the host universities during exchange programme, are excluded from the S/U option.
6. Is the S/U option available to exchange and non-graduating students studying in NTU?

    The S/U option is NOT available to exchange and non-graduating students studying in NTU.

7. Is S/U option applicable for courses taken in Special Terms?

    S/U option is applicable for GER-PE/UE taken in Special Terms. The declaration period for S/U option will begin in the mid of Special Term I and II respectively.

8. Where can I proceed to check if I have exercised S/U option?

    You can check your degree audit (via StudentLink) to confirm if your course has been tagged for S/U grading.

9. Can I amend my choices of S/U during the declaration period?

    Yes, you may do so within the stipulated declaration period for S/U declaration.

10. Can the S/U option apply retrospectively to course(s) that a student had already completed for letter grades?

    The S/U option cannot be applied retrospectively to courses that students had already completed for letter grades.

11. What will be reflected as my results in a semester where all my courses are either exempted from GPA computation and/or Pass/Fail courses and/or S/U courses?

    Your semester GPA will be reflected as `nil'; and you will not be promoted to the next study year, even if the AU criterion is met.

12. Can I appeal to amend my S/U option?

    No request to opt S/U or otherwise will be acceded to after the declaration period.
13. Can a student who gets a 'U' grade retake the course and will the 'U' grade be removed from his academic record if he passes it the second time?

The student who obtains a 'U' grade for a course can retake the course. However, the 'U' grade that he gets for his first attempt will remain in his academic record and will appear in the transcript issued by the University.

Once a course has been placed under the S/U option, the repeat attempt(s) of the same course will also fall under the S/U option. However, the AU for the repeat attempt will not be counted towards the total number of AU allowed for S/U.

However, if a student selects another course to fulfil the elective requirement in place of the course that has been graded ‘U’, he is required to opt S/U again if he wishes to exercise S/U option for the latter course.

Similarly, once a course has NOT been placed under the S/U option, the repeat attempt(s) of the same course will also NOT fall under the S/U option.

14. Can students appeal for the course(s) that they have opted to take on S/U basis to be changed to graded basis (and vice versa) after the declaration for S/U option is over?

The S/U option that they have/have not exercised for a course(s) is irrevocable.

15. Does the S/U option apply to courses that count towards the requirements for second major or minor programme?

Courses exercised S/U option cannot be counted towards the requirements for second major or minor programme.

16. I am sure that I have opted for S/U grading for my course but I am given a letter-grade instead. The system fails to capture my declaration.

The S/U declaration system is robust and has been reliable since the implementation of the S/U option in AY 2005-06. However, we view every feedback seriously and if there is any doubt, please produce your S/U confirmation slip for verification. The S/U confirmation slip for each student and course declared bears a unique transaction code. With this transaction code, our Centre for IT Services will conduct a thorough investigation.
17. If a student is absent on compassionate or medical grounds from the examination of the course that he has not opted for S/U grading, can he still opt for S/U grading when he attempts the same course in the subsequent semesters?

Even though the student did not sit for the exam, once a course has NOT been placed under the S/U option, the repeat attempt(s) of the same course will also NOT fall under the S/U option. Similarly, once a course has been placed under the S/U option, the repeat attempt(s) of the same course will also fall under the S/U option.

18. If a student is absent on compassionate or medical grounds from the examinations of the course that he has opted for S/U grading, will the AU for this course still count towards the total AU that he has opted under the S/U policy?

Yes, the AU will still count towards the S/U quota.