

PROPOSED REVISION OF DAVIS DIVISION REGULATION A546:

Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory Grading

Endorsed by the Graduate Council and the Executive Council.

Rationale: The Graduate Council (GC) met on April 19, 2018 and considered the changes to the SR A546 as presented by the Chair of the Education Policy Committee, Christopher Cappa. The regulation stipulates that only graduate students in good standing may be eligible to take letter grade courses on an S/U basis.

The registrar's office asked for guidance in interpreting this policy, as the concern is with the specification that a graduate student be in "good standing". Yet, as discussed by GC, there may be many reasons that a student might be considered "not in good standing" that are not reflective of ongoing or current academic problems. Instead they have to do with the current inability to remove the "not in good standing" designation from the transcripts due to limits set by current Graduate Council Policy (GC2005-01). One relatively common example is that a student may have accumulated an unsatisfactory grade in >8 research units (299), which cannot be repeated and therefore keep holding the student "not in good standing".

GC is currently further reviewing GC2005-01 to resolve this issue, while also allowing programs to ensure that any student who is in academic difficulty may not benefit in any changes to the policy. In the meantime GC voted unanimously in support of the changes to SR A546, as they would help streamline the process by which students, deemed not to be (or no longer to be) in academic difficulties, be allowed to take classes on a S/U basis.

Proposed Revision: Davis Division Regulation A546 shall be amended as follows. Deletions are indicated by ~~strikeout~~; additions are in **bold type**.

A546. Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory Grading

(A) Under such rules as the Graduate Council and the appropriate program may determine, a graduate student in good standing (**or who receives approval from the Office of Graduate Studies**) is authorized to undertake, in addition to courses graded on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory only basis, one course each term on an optional Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) basis. After a graduate student has been advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, the student may undertake an unlimited number of courses on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory basis.

(B) With the consent of the appropriate program and approval of the Graduate Council and of the Davis Division Committee on Courses of Instruction, the grades

assigned in specific graduate courses may be, for graduate students, Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory only and, for undergraduate students, Passed or Not Passed only.

(C) Students enrolled in individual research or individual study graduate courses (299 or 299D) shall be graded on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory only basis.

(D) In courses being undertaken on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory basis, the grade of Satisfactory shall be awarded only for work which otherwise would receive a grade of B- or better and shall be awarded in undergraduate courses only for work which otherwise would receive a grade of C- or better. Units thus earned shall be counted in satisfaction of degree requirements but disregarded in determining a student's grade point average. No credit shall be allowed for work graded Unsatisfactory.