Revisions proposed by the Academic Regulations Committee

NOTE: Proposed additions appear in bold and bracketed; proposed deletions appear in bold and struck-through.

AR 18. Alternative Grading Systems

In addition to traditional letter grading (A-F), Oregon State University has adopted two alternative grading systems to be employed in accordance with the provisions outlined below:

a. Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory (S/U)

1. Undergraduate students may elect to be graded on a Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis in [any a] course [of their choice] (except P/N courses) under the following conditions: (a) A maximum of 36 credits of those presented in satisfaction of the baccalaureate degree may have been graded on an S/U basis at Oregon State University. [The maximum for students transferring to Oregon State University from another institution is equal to the number of terms enrolled as a full-time student at Oregon State University multiplied by three.]

Rationale: The Academic Advising Council would like to propose a revision of AR 18.a.1 which deals with S/U grading. Currently the regulation states that a student may take up to 36 credits on an S/U basis, unless the student transfers to OSU. In the case of a transfer student, he/she may take a number equal to the number of terms at OSU multiplied by three up to a maximum of 36. This regulation is extremely difficult to explain to students. Now that we are moving to online degree audit, we are finding that it is not possible to automate this type of counting of S/U credits for transfer students. In fact, we have to artificially cap the S/U credits at 20 which in turn makes the online degree audit inaccurate for a number of students. Therefore, we are proposing that the maximum just be set at 36 credits for all students. Most transfer students take primarily major level courses in their last two or three years at OSU. As stated in the proposed regulation, most departments don’t allow S/U grading to count for major level courses. In fact, we know of only two departments that allow any S/U grading in the major. We believe that the simplification of the regulation would allow for a more accurate degree audit for everyone. The ARC did not see any potential problems with this proposal and was approved unanimously.

Note: The proposed changes apply only to the section listed; the remainder of the AR is unchanged.