

## FAQ – Alternate Grading Option – Spring 2020

**Q1:** Is the Alternate Grading Option available to all students?

- Yes, all students are eligible to elect the alternate grading option. Below you will find the alternate grades for undergraduate and graduate courses:

Undergraduate Courses	Graduate Courses
<b>SE</b> - Satisfactory - performance at the levels of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+ or C and full course credit is earned.	<b>SE</b> – Satisfactory - performance at the levels of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+ or C and full course credit is earned.
<b>PE</b> – Pass - performance at the levels of C- or D and full course credit is earned.	<b>UE</b> – Unsatisfactory - reflects performance at the levels of C- and D. Full course credit is earned but courses graded with UE cannot be used to fulfill graduate degree requirements.
<b>NE</b> – No Pass - performance at the level of F and no course credit is earned.	<b>NE</b> – No Pass - performance at the level of F and no course credit is earned.

**Q2:** Is the Alternate Grading Option available to students on all of the RIT campuses?

- Alternate Grading is available to students on the main campus (Rochester) and those in Croatia, Kosovo and Dubai.

**Q3:** When can students choose the Alternate Grading Option?

- Beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>, students can elect to change any or all of their classes (some exceptions apply, as outlined in policy document - classes such as wellness, thesis, etc) to the alternate grading option. Students will find the request form on <https://sis.rit.edu>. *It is strongly recommended that students wait to examine the grades received by instructors before electing the alternate grading option.*

**Q4:** How do students declare the Alternate Grading Option?

- Beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a form to make this election available at <https://sis.rit.edu>. Students will be required to submit one request per class they are electing to change to the alternate grading option.

**Q5:** Is there a deadline for declaring the Alternate Grading Option?

- It is likely that soon after seeing your grades, you will know right away if you would like to elect the alternate grading option. Students are encouraged to elect the alternate grading option as soon as possible however it must be completed before your degree is awarded.

**Q6:** If a student is graduating in Spring 2020, at what point is this option to select the alternative grading option closed?

- Students graduating this term, need to make the decision regarding the alternate grading option soon after grading is complete. Decisions should be finalized by Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Q7:** If a student was enrolled in an online class for the whole semester, are they still eligible to select the Alternate Grading Option?

- Yes. All courses other than wellness courses, cooperative education, comprehensive exam, thesis and graduate seminars already graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory are eligible for the alternate grading option.

**Q8:** If a student elects the Alternate Grading Option, how will that appear on the official and unofficial transcripts?

- If the alternate grading option is selected by the student for Spring 2020 - that is the only grade that will be reflected on the transcript. If the alternate grading option is **not** selected, the earned grades as reported by the instructor will be reported on the transcript.

2019-20 Spring						
Course	Description		Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
CSCI	603	Computational Problem Solving	3.000	3.000	SE	0.000
CSCI	605	Adv OO Programming Concepts	3.000	3.000	UE	0.000
MATH	607	Graduate Seminar II	1.000	0.000	NE	0.000
Term GPA			7.000	6.000	0.000	0.000

**Q9:** How does the Alternate Grading Option impact prerequisites on courses?

- Students should not experience any issues with prerequisites because they selected the alternate grading option. Grades of SE will satisfy any prerequisites that require a C or better and grades of PE will satisfy any prerequisites that require a C- or better. A grade of NE equates to a failing grade and will not earn credits or allow for course progression.

**Q10:** If a student opts to have one class graded as Satisfactory/Pass/No Pass (Alternate Grading Option) and the remaining classes are graded and the semester GPA is greater than 3.4, does that still qualify the student for Dean's list and other merit considerations?

- We are continuing to work on options for Dean's List for the Spring semester. The current situation is unprecedented and we are certainly considering all angles. As those decisions are made, they will be communicated to students

**Q11:** In the case of a dual-degree (BS/MS), if an undergraduate course results in a C- or a D, would that still get credit? Just to clarify, the UE grade only applies to graduate courses?

- Yes, the UE grade is only for graduate courses (see table above). Both the PE and UE grades earn credit however UE grades cannot be used to complete any graduate course requirements.

**Q12:** If a student elects the alternate grading option, can they change their mind and revert back to the grade issued by the instructor?

- Yes. While the University recommends that students take make decision to choose the alternate grading option seriously and with careful attention, students are permitted to change their mind and revert back to the grade issued by the instructor. The decision to revert back to the letter grade must be completed before a student's degree is certified. The form to make this request can be found at <https://sis.rit.edu> and will be available on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Q13:** What if students require letter grades for professional programs, employment or graduate studies?

- Because letter grades will be recorded, it will be possible for students to request an official letter from the Office of the Registrar attesting those grades should that be necessary. RIT will ensure that those who need evidence of a student's academic achievements this Spring will be able to get it. Additionally, students can elect to revert back to the traditional grading option should they choose (as outlined above).

**Q14:** Who should students contact if they have further questions about the Alternate Grading Option for Spring 2020?

- Please email [registrar@rit.edu](mailto:registrar@rit.edu) with any additional questions.