

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Grossman, Robert B
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 11:40 AM
To: Blonder, Lee; Jones, Davy; Pienkowski, David; Badger, Karen; Wood, Connie; Gesund, Hans; Kelly, Thomas
Cc: Brothers, Sheila C; Randall, David C
Subject: S and U grades in 0-credit courses

Hi,

A few years ago, the Senate approved the following definitions of S, SI, and U grades:

S Represents a final grade in courses carrying no academic credit or in courses used for residency credit or dissertation/thesis credit. It is valued at zero (0) quality points. [US: 10/11/93; US: 1/14/02; US 4/10/06]

SI Represents an interim grade in credit-bearing seminars, independent work courses, or research courses if these courses extend beyond the normal limits of a semester or summer term. All SI grades must be replaced by a regular final letter grade prior to the Qualifying Examination or Final Examination for doctoral students or prior to graduation in all other cases (see Section 5.1.3.3). As a temporary mark, SI carries no credit hours or quality points. [US: 4/10/06]

UN Represents a final grade in courses carrying no academic credit, in graduate residence courses, or as an interim grade in specific types of courses listed in Section 5.1.3.4 for which a student has done unsatisfactory work or has failed to do a reasonable amount of work. It is valued at zero (0) quality points and zero (0) credit hours. [US: 1/14/02; US: 4/10/06]

Unfortunately, the Senate did not create a grade that applies to the courses to which SI applies, but represents unsatisfactory progress. Although the definition of the SI grade does not state whether the student is making satisfactory progress, many students see the "S" and assume that their performance is satisfactory. It is important for instructors (often research advisors) to be able to make the point that a student's performance has **not** been satisfactory.

I brought this matter to the attention of the Senate Council, and it was supposed to be sent to this committee, but I haven't seen any further discussion. Therefore, I would like to suggest that we propose the following new grade:

UI Represents an interim grade in credit-bearing seminars, independent work courses, or research courses if these courses extend beyond the normal limits of a semester or summer term. This grade should be assigned if a student has done unsatisfactory work or has failed to do a reasonable amount of work during the term in question. All UI grades must be replaced by a regular final letter grade prior to the Qualifying Examination or Final Examination for doctoral students or prior to graduation in all other cases (see Section 5.1.3.3). As a temporary mark, UI carries no credit hours or quality points. [US: 4/10/06]

Correspondingly,

SI Represents an interim grade in credit-bearing seminars, independent work courses, or research courses if these courses extend beyond the normal limits of a semester or summer term. This grade should be assigned if a student has done satisfactory work during the term in question. All SI grades must be replaced by a regular final letter grade prior to the Qualifying Examination or Final Examination for doctoral students or prior to graduation in all other cases (see Section 5.1.3.3). As a temporary mark, SI carries no credit hours or quality points. [US: 4/10/06]

Please share your thoughts.

-- Bob