April 22, 2020

TO: MSU undergraduate students

FROM: Mark Largent
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Dear MSU Student,

Spring 2020 and the novel coronavirus has brought many unpredictable professional and personal challenges. In light of this, we have introduced an option of a binary grade recording system for Spring 2020’s grades. If you are taking courses this semester, you will have the option to have your final grade for any given course recorded on your transcript on an S/NS (satisfactory/not satisfactory) scale. For undergraduates, the threshold between S and NS is 1.0. Faculty will submit their grades as usual to the Registrar’s Office at the end of the semester, and you will have two weeks beginning May 6 to view your grades and decide on a class-by-class basis if you would prefer to have your grade for each of your courses recorded on your transcripts with the numerical 0.0-4.0 grade or with S/NS.

You are strongly encouraged to work with your advisor and program to determine possible implications of your choices.

Grades recorded as S/NS will not be calculated into your official cumulative GPA, but your program and college may use your numerical 0.0-4.0 grade to apply degree progression policies such as whether or not a course will count toward your degree or whether you might be required to still demonstrate sufficient competency in a particular subject matter. Your program and college have been strongly encouraged to take into consideration this semester’s unusual circumstances when making such decisions. The policy unanimously approved by MSU’s Academic Council and implemented by President Stanley expressly prohibits S/NS from being taken into account for secondary admissions in the limit admission colleges. The Registrar will keep the original grade on file, so if you are applying to an external institution (such as a graduate or professional school), you can ask the Registrar to provide you with a transcript that has the original numerical grade listed on it and figured into your cumulative GPA.

All MSU transcripts that have any grade reported for Spring 2020 semester will include a statement explaining that the COVID-19 outbreak and the university’s decision to switch to remote-only instruction in the course of the Spring 2020 semester caused unusual disruptions.

Ultimately, we hope that this option will help alleviate some of the stresses you are experiencing during this very unusual time. Here is where you can find more detailed information regarding this reporting option. In addition, a specific set of FAQs has been developed to help you navigate this decision.

To access the S/NS grade selection form beginning May 6, please click on one of the two links below.

StuInfo Grades page:
https://reg.msu.edu/StuForms/StuInfo/Transcript.aspx

StuInfo - Spring 2020 Semester – Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory (S/NS) Grade Selection

Mark Largent
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies