



Satisfactory or No Credit

Presented By: Elizabeth Braatz
Third-Year at Western Oregon
University



Why am I advocating for this?

Being an advocate for people, issues, and movements have always been a very big part of my life. In Early fall, a friend of mine from my first-year reached out to me and expressed their concerns. They were struggling with classes, and felt helpless. They knew I had leadership positions on campus, and knew that I was an advocate. It was humbling, and I felt honored that someone entrusted sharing their fears and concerns, but also looked to me for hope. I took it seriously, and here I am. I am advocating for students to have the Satisfactory/No Credit option because students deserve to find hope, happiness, and success, during the hardships and unprecedented struggles this year has caused each and every person in this world.

How did I get things in motion?

1. I contacted my friends who attended WOU, and began asking if this is an option they would benefit from. They all said yes, but of course I could not keep track of everything.

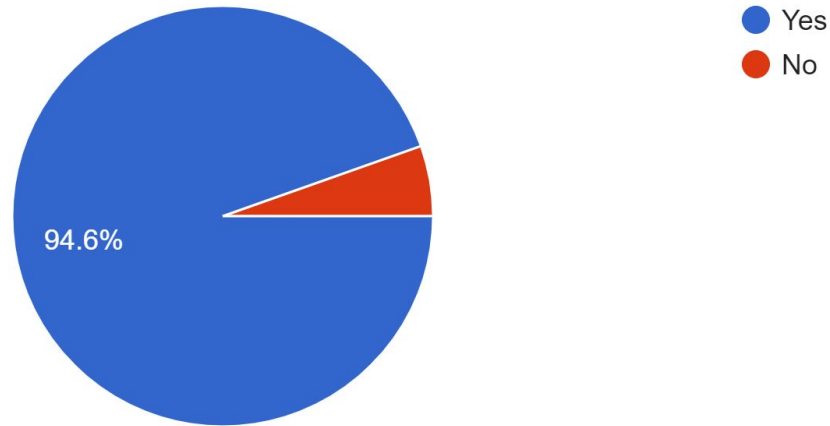
SO

2. I created **TWO** google forms
 - A Student Survey on whether or not they would benefit from S/NC
 - A Faculty Survey on whether or not they would support having the option of S/NC for students

This is the final statistic: 164 Student Responses

Would you benefit from having a pass/fail option as long as we're primarily in online learning?

166 responses



More details from the pie chart statistic

- Out of 166 responses --- **157 students said YES** to having the S/NS

$$156/164 = \mathbf{94.6\% \text{ would benefit from the S/NC option}}$$

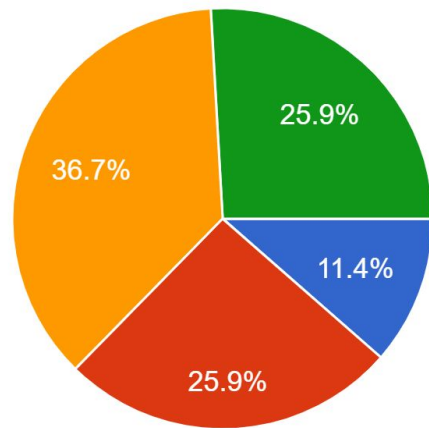
- Out of 164 responses --- **9 students said NO** to having the S/NS

$$9/164 = \mathbf{5.4\% \text{ would not benefit from the S/NC option}}$$

Statistics of Student Year(s) at WOU

What is your school year?

166 responses



- First Year
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Continuous Education

Student Responses

Online classes are not optional, they are required. This is harmful to those who benefit from in person learning and most teachers are teaching through a textbook instead of their own knowledge. This has affected many people's grades because online learning requires self discipline and time manage which is hard to develop over a month in order to adjust to online learning. This will help all students who are struggling with distance learning and can provide the security of passing instead of a letter grade on their transcript.

Student Responses

- Online learning wasn't built for me. I am new to WOU and was promised to have some classes in person but that's not the case. Online learning is less personal and little to no social interaction. I am a very social person and not being social is making me extremely depressed.
- Because we're literally teaching ourselves. My GPA has always been decent but ever since COVID hit it's been tanking. Pass fail in the spring of 20 was the only reason why I'm a senior this year. Pass fail now would make me feel so much safer in terms of graduating. The amount of anxiety I have from thinking about a letter grade is ridiculous. If I fail my psych 467 class **I'm probably gonna drop out.**

Student Responses

It is difficult to keep up with all of the discussions and forums and there is so much busy work every week. Having that pass fail option would make me less stressed because I know I'm not going to get very many As like I normally would in person. Last year I took 18 credits one term while working two jobs and I'm currently taking 15 credits and working one job and I'm sitting on my laptop 24/7 when I'm not working. I got all As when I took 18 credits and right now I have lots of Bs and I'm very stressed.

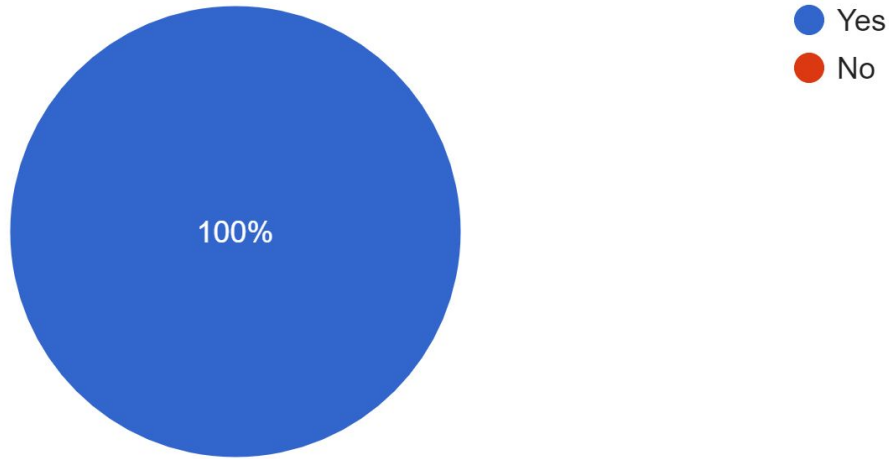
Student Responses

- The possible cost of losing a scholarship shouldn't be a worry in the time of chaos
- Many staff are unaware of how hard this year has been on us. I know that they are trying to be understanding but they just don't fully grasp what we are going through and how as students it feels to take online classes. On Mondays I spend 2-7 on my computer JUST on meetings. That's not counting the rest of the week.

Faculty Survey

Do you think students should have Pass/Fail as an option for the 2020-2021 School Year?

5 responses



Details about Faculty Survey

1. I really would have liked to have more of a faculty response, however I had a much smaller outreach platform as far as Professors at WOU
2. Out of **5 Professor's responses**
5/5 = 100% support having the S/NC option for students

Faculty Responses

- 1)** Student stress levels are high. Much of this stress has nothing to do with school. And since education is our primary goal at the university, we should seek reasonable means to increase this education, even if it means that we adhere less to our previous grading ideologies.
- 2)** Without face-to-face classes, students are not getting the full college experience, so they should not be graded as though they are.
- 3)** Some students are not served as well in online classes. I can speak from experience as a new online teacher that some of the things that are simple in a face-to-face class become incredibly hard online. I also suspect that many students who have questions don't ask them by email or chat or phone; these same shy students would probably wait after class and talk with the instructor even if they were too shy to ask in class. So, by making classes pass/fail, we relieve some of the burden on shy students. Also, outgoing students or students with high verbal skills may find that online interaction—especially in asynchronous classes that deal entirely in written texts—is not as beneficial as in-person classes
- 4)** During this deadly pandemic, students should be given a variety of ways to fulfill their educational requirements. So I think that the pass/fail option is one among many tools we can use to continue education under such trying circumstance.

Questions, Comments, Concerns?