



April 22, 2020

TO: THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

FROM: SANFORD C. SHUGART
President

RE: NEW GRADE OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS AFFECTED BY COVID-19
PANDEMIC

In an effort to mitigate the impact of the significant disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic on students' academic performance, the College created, pending Board approval, two new grade types:

- A. **Retake Option** – this grading option allows students to unenroll from a course and retake it in a future semester. If a student elects this option, a final grade of R20 will be posted on the student's transcript. Students who retake the course during the Summer 2020 semester will have their tuition and fees waived.

A student who elects this option will not earn credit for the course. It is not counted as a course attempt nor as attempted credits; the grade does not affect the student's grade point average. It is not treated as a withdrawal by Valencia. This option would be effective immediately and would only be available during the Spring 2020 term.

- B. **Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Option** – this grading option allows students the opportunity to earn credit for a course without affecting their grade point average. If a student elects this option, a final grade of S+, S-, or U will be posted on the student's transcript. Under this option, the final course grade assigned by the instructor of record will be administratively changed to a grade of S+ (for A, B, and C grades), S- (for D grades), and U (for F grades).

Students who earn an S+ or S- will earn credit for the course; students who earn a U will not earn credit for the course. S+, S-, and U grades reflect a course attempt but have no impact on a student's GPA. S+ grades fulfill prerequisite and graduation requirements that require a grade of C or higher. This option would be effective immediately for the

Spring 2020 term; in addition, the College is requesting authorization to make this option available for the Summer 2020 term if determined by the College to be appropriate.

Students had until April 17, 2020 to elect either of these options for any of the courses in which they were enrolled during the Spring 2020 semester. Students who did not elect either of these options will have a traditional final letter grade posted on their transcript. Final grades for the Spring 2020 semester will be posted on April 27, 2020.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College adjust the 2019-20 College Catalog to include the R20 and S+/S-/U final grade designations as specified.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sanford C. Shuyart", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

President