



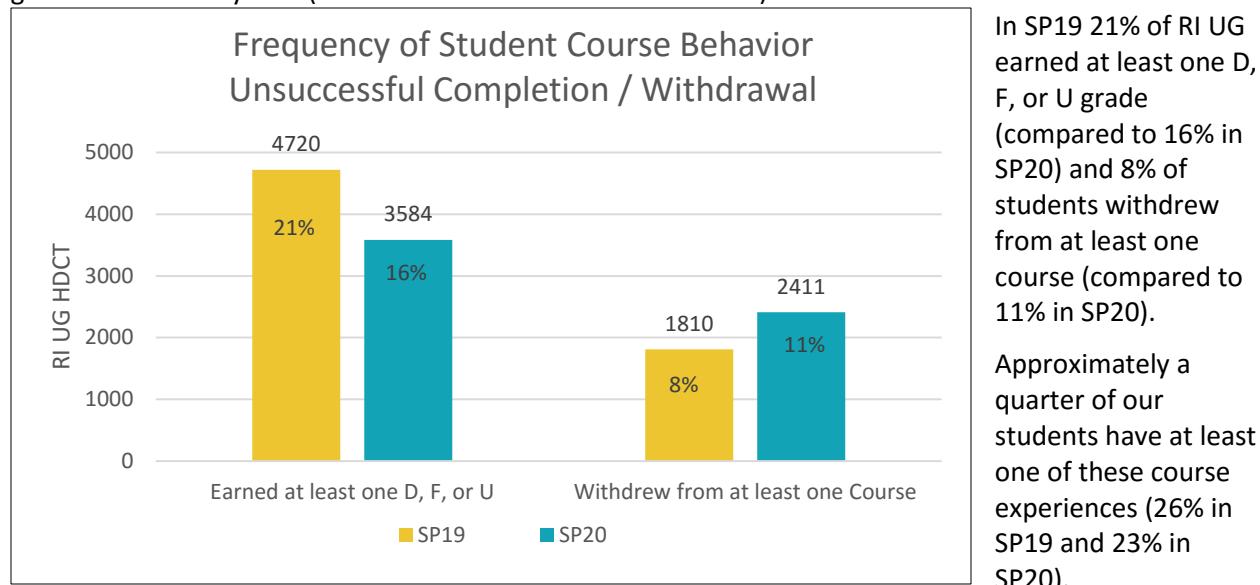
SP20 Academic Policy Adjustments

In SP20 students were allowed to switch their grade(s) to S/U grading after grades posted. They were also permitted to withdraw from a course up until the last day of classes. This report summarizes the impact these adjustments had on our student success metrics.

Course Withdrawal Summary

In SP20 students were able to withdraw from classes up to the last day of class before finals. Normally the withdrawal deadline is mid-semester.

The number of RI UG that withdrew from at least one course increased by 33% (from 1,810 students to 2,411 students) in SP20 compared to SP19, but the number of RI UG that earned at least one D, F or U grade decreased by 24% (from 4720 students to 3584 students).



Of the students that withdrew from at least one course, the proportion that withdrew from two courses is slightly higher in SP20 compared to SP19 (42% of the SP20 students withdrew from two courses compared to 40% in SP19). Similarly, 14% withdrew from three or more courses in SP20 compared to only 11% in SP19. The second fall persistence rate among students that withdrew from three or more courses in SP20 is about 78% (historically this rate was around 74%). Persistence rates for students that withdrew from one or two courses in SP20 are comparable to the historic rates.

The number of full university withdrawals was 37% lower in SP20 compared to SP19. In SP20 we had 191 RI UG that did a full university withdrawal (.8% of the RI UG enrolled at SP20 census) and in SP19 there were 307 full university withdrawals (1.4% of the RI UG enrolled at SP19 census). The second fall persistence rate for students that do a full university withdrawal in their first spring semester is historically around 35%. The second fall persistence rate for FA19 students that withdrew from four or more courses in SP20 is considerably higher at 73% (this comparison assumes that these students with four or more withdrawals would have had to do a full university withdrawal if they did not have the option of dropping nearly all their courses late).



S/U Grading Summary

Students were able to switch any of their earned letter grades to a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory grade (S/U grades) after SP20 grades posted. In SP20 there were 4,598 students (about 15% of the students that completed any credits) that took the S/U option for at least one of the courses. Here are some highlights regarding the population that engaged with the option:

- About 18% of undergraduates took an S/U grade compared to only 5% of graduate students.
- Undergraduates that were in their first year at CSU (came as a first-time or transfer student in SM19, FA19, or SP20) used the S/U option at a higher rate than continuing students. For instance, 22% of first time and 20% of transfer undergraduates used the S/U option in SP20 compared to 18% of continuing UG. This trend held for graduate students.
- Undergraduates with majors in the COB, WSCOE, CNS were more likely (over 20% of these majors took an S/U) to utilize the S/U and students in the CAS, CLA or CVMBS were least likely (14% or less of these majors took an S/U) to utilize the S/U option.
- Racially minoritized (UG and GR) as well as first generation students were more likely to use the S/U option compared to their peers. About 20% of FG or RM undergraduates used the S/U option compared to about 18% of non-RM or continuing generation undergraduates. There are approximately 1200 undergraduates that identify as FG or RM and utilized the S/U grade option.
- About 20% of main campus undergraduates used the option compared to only 7% of undergraduates with a CSU online major.
- Among the students that utilized the S/U grade option, undergraduates took the S/U grade for an average of 5.8 credits or for about 44% of their total credits and graduate students took the S/U grade for an average of 3.6 credits or 45% of their total credits. The average number of S/U credits or the percent of total credits that used the S/U option did not differ by student type, demographics or class level.

There are some positive correlations between the SP20 S/U program and student success measures. The following summarizes the student success data for the S/U grade option:

- Nearly all of students who took the S/U option have a higher term GPA with the S/U adjustment compared to their original term GPA with the letter grades.
 - Students that utilized the S/U option were more likely to be on academic probation. About 22% (approximately 1,000 students) of the students that took the S/U option would have had a term GPA that was below 2.0. For reference, only 4% of the students that did not use the S/U option had a term GPA less than 2.0.
 - Among these S/U students with a GPA below 2.0, 87% have an S/U adjusted term GPA that is above 2.0. There are 870 students who ended their SP20 term without a term GPA below 2.0 because they utilized the S/U option.
- First time students that utilized the S/U grade option persisted to FA20 at a slightly higher rate (about 2 percentage points) compared to their peers that did not utilize the S/U option.
 - FTFT students that utilized the S/U grade option and had a first year GPA that was below 2.0 (prior to the S/U adjustment) persisted to FA20 at a rate of 73%. This is considerably higher (about 20 PP) than their peers that had a first year GPA below 2.0, but did not use the S/U program (53.6% second-fall persistence rate).
 - WSCOE piloted an S/U program about 6 years. This program did not show positive correlations with increased persistence at CSU or GPA (report [link](#)).