



Briefing to Freshmen (AY16/17 intake) on Grade-free Scheme

A/Prof Soh Wee Seng
Dept of Electrical & Computer Engineering
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Outline



- Grade-Free Scheme: Overview
- Effects
- Advice
- Examples
- Academic Standing
- Tuition Fee Policy
- Recommended Study Schedule
- Q&A

Overview



Aims of Grade-free Scheme:

- Provide supportive environment to make transition into university life
- Alleviate anxiety amongst students about grades
- Help students to engage in exploratory and independent learning

Overview



S/U option exercised -

- Grade no longer factored into computation of CAP
- Grade 'C' or better ⇒ Satisfactory - 'S' grade
- Grade lower than 'C' ⇒ Unsatisfactory - 'U' grade
(F, D & D+)
- MCs with 'S' grade counted towards the degree requirements but **not MCs with 'U' grade**

When to exercise S/U option?

- Strictly within 3 days after exam result is released
- Option exercised cannot be revoked
- Retrospective declaration not allowed

S/U Quota



For non-poly students of AY2016/17 intake

- Upper limit of MCs for S/U: **32 MCs**
- 1st & 2nd regular semesters: **Up to 32 MCs**
- If not fully utilized, can still be exercised in subsequent semesters **Up to 12 MCs**

For poly students of AY2016/17 intake

- Upper limit of MCs for S/U: **20 MCs**
- 1st & 2nd regular semesters: **Up to 20 MCs**
- If not fully utilized, can still be exercised in subsequent semesters **Up to 12 MCs**

Modules that Qualify for S/U



- All Level 1000 modules (except 0 MC modules)
- Level 2000 modules without other NUS module as pre-requisite
- Examples:

Module	Qualify for S/U?	Reason
CG1001, CS1010/E, CS1231, EE1001, EE1003, ES1103, ES1531, MA1301, MA1505, MA1506, PC1221, PC1222, GER1000 & GE?1xxx	YES	Level 1000
EE2020, EE2021, EE2023, EE2024	NO	With NUS pre-requisite

Implications on Retaking a Module



S/U Module (option exercised):

- S Grade: Carry on to do higher level module
- U Grade: Pre-req for higher level not fulfilled; must be retaken
- For both: CAP computation not affected

Non S/U Modules:

- F Grade: Retake the module
Cannot carry on to higher level module
CAP affected
- D+/D Grade: Cannot retake
Can carry on to do higher level module
CAP affected

Effects



Desirable Effect: Improvement in CAP

- A quick review of the grading system

Grade Point

A+/A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D+	D	F
5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0

CAP (Cumulative Average Point)

$$CAP = \frac{\sum(MC)_i \times (GP)_i}{\sum(MC)_i}$$

- If S/U not opted, lower grade point (GP) means lower CAP
- If S/U opted, module is removed from both numerator and denominator
- Effect of poor grade is eliminated

Effects



Improvement in CAP (illustration)

EG1111 (6MC)	CS
GER1000 (4MC)	A-
EE2020 (5MC)	C
MA1505 (4MC)	C+
CS1010E (4MC)	F

$$CAP = \frac{4 \times 4.5 + 5 \times 2.0 + 4 \times 2.5 + 4 \times 0.0}{4 + 5 + 4 + 4} = 2.24$$

- If S/U option is exercised for the last 3 modules,

EG1111 (6MC)	CS
GER1000 (4MC)	A-
EE2020 (5MC)	S
MA1505 (4MC)	S
CS1010E (4MC)	U

$$CAP = \frac{4 \times 4.5 + \cancel{5 \times 2.0} + \cancel{4 \times 2.5} + \cancel{4 \times 0.0}}{4 + \cancel{5} + \cancel{4} + \cancel{4}} = 4.5$$



It can be a false sense of satisfaction

Effects



Undesirable Effects

1. 'U' grade ⇒ MCs lost; not counted towards degree requirement

- If you S/U a core module with D grade, it will be U grade & you need to repeat the core module
- Possibility of delay in graduation if you retake several core modules

2. 'U' grade ⇒ Pre-requisite not fulfilled

- Core module with 'U' grade must be retaken

3. On your Transcript

- U-grade remains in the record
 - Even for module retaken and passed on the second attempt

Advice



- **Think carefully before exercising the option**
- **If S/U is exercised**
 - Modules from future semesters have greater influence on CAP at the end of candidature
- **Take decision based on self-assessment of expected performance for the full candidature**
 - First semester CAP may be a good guide for self-assessment
 - Generally not necessary to utilize entire S/U quota
- **An article from Provost's Blog: "The Science (and Art) of the S/U Option"**
<http://blog.nus.edu.sg/provost/2014/12/23/su1101-the-science-and-art-of-the-su-option/>

Advice



You do not need to use up all your S/U quota!

- Some students seem to think that they lose out by not using all their S/U quota
- Prospective employers for IA/VIP, selection committees for NOC, SEP, and scholarships/bursaries might think that students with S/U on their transcripts are not doing too well in their studies
 - Hence if you are doing quite well, do not simply choose to S/U just to use up your S/U quota

Advice



- **Grade 'F'**
 - **Opt for S/U option**
 - 'F' grade carries zero grade point \Rightarrow 0 added to the numerator of CAP formula
 - **S/U Not opted** \Rightarrow MC is added to the denominator
 - **S/U Opted** \Rightarrow MC is not added to the denominator

Advice



- **Grade 'D' or 'D+'**
 - **Generally advantageous to exercise S/U option**
 - **Negative Effects:**
 - **Heavier workload later**
 - Missing MCs must be made-up later
 - **Possible delay in progression**
 - Retaking a **core/pre-requisite** module when offered next
 - **May need to read modules in special terms**
 - **If module is not core/pre-requisite**
 - No effect on degree requirement/ on modules of subsequent semesters

Advice



- **Grades 'C' to 'A-'**
 - **A- or B+**
 - Keep the grade
 - No Dean's List in the first two semester \Rightarrow no issue with B+
 - **B to C**
 - **Exercise extra caution**
 - Remember - decision of S/U option is irrevocable
- **Exercise the option if you are very confident about better grades in subsequent semesters**
- **Be mindful about the level of difficulty in higher stages**
 - Higher level modules are, in general, more difficult than Level 1000 modules

Case 1: Not taking the advantage



Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point	Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	F	0	CS1010E	4	U	
MA1301	4	F	0	MA1301	4	U	Opt S/U for C and below
EE1001	4	C	2	EE1001	4	S	
EE1003	4	B+	4	EE1003	4	B+	4
EE2020	5	C+	2.5	EE2020	5	C+	2.5
SAP=1.74		CAP=1.74		SAP=3.17		CAP=3.17	

Next Semester.....

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point	Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
EE2021	4	C	2	EE2021	4	C	2
EE2024	5	C	2	EE2024	5	C	2
GEK1549	4	C	2	GEK1549	4	C	2
MA1505	4	C	2	MA1505	4	S	Opt S/U for some C grades
PC1222	4	C	2	PC1222	4	S	
SAP=2.00		CAP=1.87		SAP=2.00		CAP=2.48	

Case 2: Don't just S/U blindly



S/U
whatever
you can



Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	C	2
MA1301	4	C	2
EE1001	4	B	3.5
EE1003	4	B+	4
EE2020	5	C+	2.5
SAP=2.79		CAP=2.79	

S/U only
those
below C+



Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	S	
MA1301	4	S	
EE1001	4	S	
EE1003	4	S	
EE2020	5	C+	2.5
SAP=2.5		CAP=2.5	

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	S	
MA1301	4	S	
EE1001	4	B	3.5
EE1003	4	B+	4.0
EE2020	5	C+	2.5
SAP=3.27		CAP=3.27	

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17

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	S	
MA1301	4	S	
EE1001	4	S	
EE1003	4	S	
EE2020	5	C+	2.5
SAP=2.5		CAP=2.5	

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	S	
MA1301	4	S	
EE1001	4	B	3.5
EE1003	4	B+	4.0
EE2020	5	C+	2.5
SAP=3.27		CAP=3.27	

Next Semester.....

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
EE2021	4	C	2
EE2024	5	D	1
GER1000	4	C→S	
MA1505	4	C	2
PC1222	4	C	2
SAP=1.71		CAP=1.89	

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
EE2021	4	C	2
EE2024	5	D	1
GER1000	4	C→S	
MA1505	4	C→S	
PC1222	4	C→S	
SAP=1.44		CAP=2.52	

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18

Case 3: S/U for B- vs S/U for C



Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point	Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point	Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
CS1010E	4	C	2.0	CS1010E	4	S		CS1010E	4	S	
MA1301	4	B-	3.0	MA1301	4	S		MA1301	4	B-	3.0
EE1001	4	B-	3.0	EE1001	4	S		EE1001	4	B-	3.0
EE1003	4	A	5.0	EE1003	4	A	5.0	EE1003	4	A	5.0
EE2020	5	B-	3.0	EE2020	5	B-	3.0	EE2020	5	B-	3.0
SAP=3.19		CAP=3.19		SAP=3.89		CAP=3.89		SAP=3.47		CAP=3.47	

Next Semester.....

Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point	Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point	Module	MC	Grade	Grade Point
EE2021	4	D	1.0	EE2021	4	D	1.0	EE2021	4	D	1.0
EE2024	5	D	1.0	EE2024	5	D	1.0	EE2024	5	D	1.0
MA1505	4	B-	3.0	MA1505	4	S		MA1505	4	B-	3.0
PC1222	4	B-	3.0	PC1222	4	S		PC1222	4	B-	3.0
SAP=1.94		CAP=2.63		SAP=1.00		CAP=2.44		SAP=1.94		CAP=2.71	

Conclusion



- **Work hard and use S/U as a security blanket**
 - You don't have to finish up the quota
 - Use only when it is advantageous
- **Don't be ignorant of the option**
 - Use it to eliminate effects of poor grades
- **Use the option carefully**
 - Don't be tempted for **good 1st year CAP** only
 - Think carefully about consequences
 - Consider it against projected result in full candidature
- **General Guideline:**
 - F grade Opt for S/U
 - D to D+ generally advantageous to S/U
 - **Consider the implications for core/ pre-req modules**
 - C to B requires extra caution
 - B+ & A- keep the grade, i.e., don't S/U

Useful Links



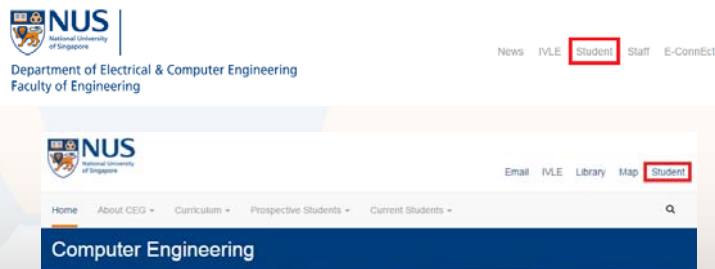
1. Provost's blog
(<http://blog.nus.edu.sg/provost/2014/12/23/su1101-the-science-and-art-of-the-su-option/>)
2. RO page on grade-free scheme
(<https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/academics/ug/cohort-201617-and-after.html>)
3. RO S/U FAQ
([https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/SU-FAQ\(cohort-2016-17-and-after\).pdf](https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/SU-FAQ(cohort-2016-17-and-after).pdf))
4. Guidebook to S/U Declaration Exercise
(<https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/Guidebook-to-SU-Declaration-Exercise-for-Cohort-AY201617-and-after.pdf>)

Useful Links



How to navigate to S/U homepage (via Student Portal)

1. Access Student Portal by clicking on top RHS menu of NUS webpages



2. Under 'Quick Links', click on 'Examination Directory'
3. Under 'Useful Links', click on 'S/U Homepage'
4. Then click on 'Cohorts 2016/17 and After'

Academic Standing



Probation and Dismissal

From 3rd semester onwards:

CAP < 2.0 for current semester*	Probation
CAP < 2.0 for 2 consecutive semesters*	Dismissal

*excluding special term

More details:

(<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/education-at-nus/undergraduate-education/continuation-and-graduation-requirements.html>)

Tuition Fee Policy



Tuition Fee Beyond Normal Candidature

- For the cohort admitted from AY2016/17 onwards, students who take longer than **8 consecutive semesters** (4 years) to complete their degree requirements will have to pay partial non-subsidized fees

- MOE tuition grant only covers the normal duration of the degree course

- Details can be found at:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/education-at-nus/undergraduate-education/fees.html>

<https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/FAQ-on-Tuition-Fee-beyond-Normal-Candidature.pdf>

Tuition Fee Policy



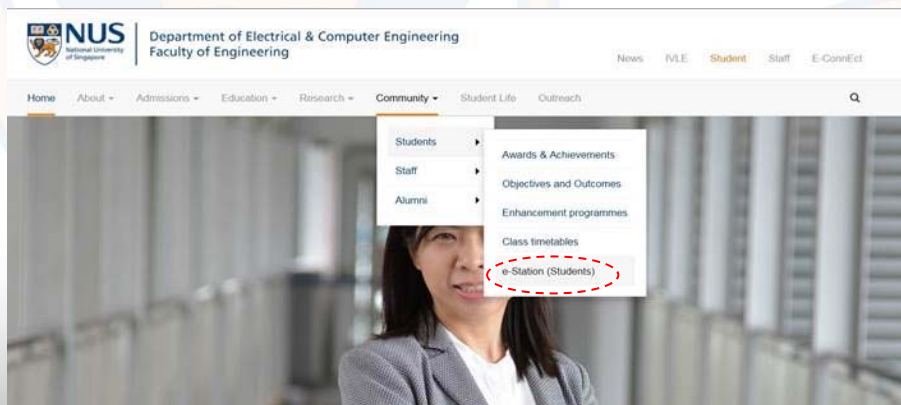
Keep track of your academic progress:

- If you fail some modules, you should re-work your semestral workplans, e.g., take modules in the special term, so as to reduce the likelihood that you may extend beyond 4 years
- Pay great attention to your academic progress and be responsible for your studies

Recommended Study Schedule



- Via e-Station (Students)



Recommended Study Schedule



The screenshot shows the website for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. On the left is a navigation menu with links for Students, e-Station, Calendar of activities, and years from First Year to Graduate. The 'Recommended Study Schedule' link is highlighted with a red dashed box. The main content area is titled 'Timetable / Schedule' and lists various resources like 'EE modules Timetable', 'Year 1 non-EE modules', and 'Lab Schedule for Year 2 Core Modules'. Below that is an 'Academic Information / Useful Links' section with links for 'Important Information on IA/VIP', 'Checking for your Academic Advisor/Mentor', and 'Exemptions for Poly students'.

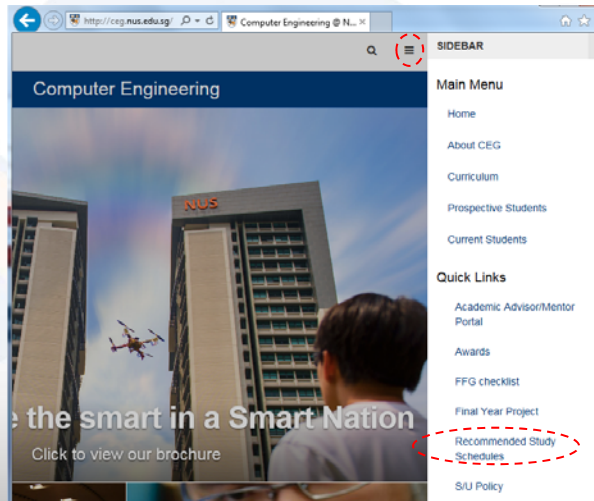
Recommended Study Schedule



The screenshot shows the website for the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. The 'Education' menu is open, showing options like 'What is ECE all about?', 'B.Eng. (Electrical Engineering)', 'B.Eng. (Computer Engineering)', 'B. Tech. (Electronics)', 'Enhancement programmes', 'Research Programmes', and 'Master of Science by Course Work'. The 'Recommended Study Schedules' link is highlighted with a red dashed box. The background shows a 'Recommended study' section with a date update of '15 July 2016'.

- <https://www.ece.nus.edu.sg/home/education/ee/recommended.html>

Recommended Study Schedule



Note:
If you don't see
a sidebar, scroll
to bottom of
webpage for
the Quick Links

- <http://ceg.nus.edu.sg/students/studyschedule.html>

Recommended Study Schedule



Points to Note:

- Poly Students
 - Seniors feedback it was hard to cope in Sem2
 - Should seriously consider taking EE2021 in Special Term instead of Sem2
- Non-poly Students
 - Seniors feedback it was hard to cope with evening modules during IA
 - Should start planning & consider taking Special Term modules (e.g., EE2021, GE/UEM)

Fee Rebate Policy



With effect from cohort of AY2014/15:

- A **rebate** in tuition fees paid in excess of the total fees for the stipulated candidature period may be granted to eligible students who graduated on time within the stipulated candidature period
- <https://share.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student/info/FAQ-on-Fee-Rebate-Policy.pdf>
- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/education-at-nus/undergraduate-education/fees.html>



Q & A