**Draft language for S, I, U grades for Thesis/Dissertation Research Hours**

Satisfactory (S) - If a student makes satisfactory progress toward completing the research plan for that semester, the student should receive the grade S. S grades are not counted in computing the student’s GPA and cannot replace a prior grade in the GPA. A “S” course grade, however, will carry credit hours and be used toward a student’s total hours required for graduation.

Incomplete (I) - If a student is unable to make satisfactory progress due to something beyond their control (e.g. illness, building flooding, loss of data, *etc.*), the student should receive the grade I (incomplete). Grades of incomplete must be changed by 60 days into the next long semester after the incomplete was received or it is changed to an “F” or a “U”.  “I” grades received in the spring semester must be removed 60 days after the start of the fall semester or it is changed to an “F” or a “U”.

Unsatisfactory (U) - If a student’s progress toward completing the research plan for that semester is unsatisfactory, the student should receive the grade U. That grade does not need to be resolved and it will remain on the transcript. U grades are not counted in computing the student’s GPA. A “U” course grade, however, will **not** carry credit hours or be used toward a student’s total hours required for graduation.

Consequences of a U grade:

A second grade of U at any point (doesn’t have to be sequential semesters) prompts a discussion between the faculty advisor, graduate program director, thesis/dissertation committee, and the student resulting in either a written plan for improvement signed by all parties; or, dismissal from the program. A third grade of U at any point (doesn’t have to be sequential semesters) results in dismissal from the program.

\*We could leave the “institutional” consequences of a U grade up to the program but it may still have consequences on student financial aid (Yellow Ribbon, Veteran’s Administration, TCU Financial Aid packages, etc.).

**A completed and successfully defended thesis/dissertation must receive a letter grade (A, B, etc.) that is decided upon via consensus by the thesis/dissertation committee. A letter grade must be submitted by the student’s faculty advisor for inclusion on the student’s official transcript. A “passing” thesis/dissertation grade should be a “B” or higher. Otherwise, the student would not be considered to have met the thesis/dissertation requirement. The thesis/dissertation letter grade does not replace the thesis/dissertation hour S/U grades.**