

## **S/D/F Options for Spring 2020 – Biology/Biochemistry Majors**

For this semester only, the college has waived several rules associated with taking courses S/D/F. The deadline to select this is May 11. For a full explanation of the changes, see this link:

<https://www.ithaca.edu/academics/registrar>

The Biology Department has agreed to allow courses required in the B.A. and B.S. majors to be taken as S/D/F for this semester only. Biochemistry and Chemistry have adopted similar policies. Normally, courses in the major must be taken for a grade.

### **Factors to consider in choosing the S/D/F option:**

- ❖ If you are worried you might end up with a grade as low as a C- and don't want this to damage your GPA, consider switching to S/D/F.
- ❖ If you are currently earning a D or F, switching to S/D/F will not help.
- ❖ Some post-baccalaureate programs and graduate schools may not accept S/D/F courses. Check your program requirements or talk to an advisor.
- ❖ Students in the Education major (e.g. Biology Education, Chemistry Education) – your program will not allow you to count a course taken as S/D/F.

**E-mail your Academic Advisor if you are unsure:** you have until May 11 to decide

**Pre-Health Students:** How might switching to an S/D/F option impact your chances of admissions to a school in the Health Professions (e.g. med school, vet school, PA school, dental school, etc.)? This is a complicated question, and it is likely that everybody's situation is different, so there is no one answer that will match everybody's circumstances. Discuss your questions with Ian Woods at HPAC office hours:

- ❖ **Office hours:** via Zoom: <== click link to join  
OR: Meeting ID 643-237-488; Password: 083184
  - Mondays 3-3:50
  - Wednesdays 2-2:50 and 3-3:50
  - Thursdays 12-12:50

### **What does S/D/F/ mean?**

If you receive grades A through C-, your transcript grade will show an "S" for satisfactory

If you receive a grade of D+, D or D-, your transcript will show a "D"

If you receive a grade of F, your transcript will show an "F"

### **How does S/D/F figure into my GPA?**

If you earn an "S" grade (C- or higher), your grade is NOT included in your GPA

If you earn a D or F, that grade IS computed into your GPA

**S/D/F is not the same as P/F:** With the S/D/F system, a grade of D is recorded as a D (this is not the case for P/F). And, importantly, this D is included in your GPA calculation!

### **How do I request S/D/F?**

Fill out the online form: <https://www.ithaca.edu/academics/registrar/forms/student-forms>

### **Here is the college policy on S/D/F:**

<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/academic-information/credit-grade/>