

Sciences Breakout Session

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, June 22

Discussion moderators: Vida Praitis, biology, incoming chair of faculty and Mark Levandoski, associate dean of the College

S&B reporter: Wini Austin

Class registration/Credits

- Registration will consist of two add/drop periods: one general one before both F1 (Fall Term 1) and F2 (Fall Term 2) begins, and one after F1 to adjust F2 classes accordingly
- Add/drop period will be condensed according to the compressed quarter schedule
- Requirements for medical and veterinary schools will be available and prioritized, while other courses may be in flux
- The registrar will honor original registration as much as possible; 90 percent of currently scheduled seats will be preserved
- Emergency S/D/F and withdrawal requirements will go back to normal/pre-emergency times
- Auditing won't be possible if a course is on-campus but you are not

Teaching and Learning

- Currently working on compressing classes into the 7.5-week term in a way that doesn't diminish learning or overwhelm students' workloads
- Distilling what is crucial for students to learn – less can be more
- Biology and chemistry departments working hard to balance courseloads and required courses so as to not overwhelm students
- Remote classes will require some flexibility and self-awareness from students (How will you learn best?)
- On-campus class size will be informed by the low-density model and may consist of smaller classes and more group work
- Certain classes that are required for majors may only be available remotely, in which case students will have less flexibility
- A significant number of courses will be distant, but students will not be able to know which ones before registration
- Professors are avoiding course designs that combine distance and on-campus learning due to the inequality of experience

Labs

- Lab portions of STEM courses will be revised, such as replacing physical data gathering with increased use of datasets and databases or sending materials to students at home
- On-campus labs will take social distancing and density into consideration



- On-site lab learning cannot be guaranteed for any student, regardless of class year, and lab courses will likely not be a factor in who gets invited to campus

Mentors

- Student mentor positions will still be available, the format is yet to be decided
- International students are unable to be hired as mentors if they are outside of the US – those concerned about work-study and financial aid should contact the Financial Aid office
- Off-campus students living in Grinnell may be able to be mentors in on-campus classes, depending on the public health model

Miscellaneous note:

- Positive virus tests will be treated like accommodations – professors will work with students to adjust accordingly