**PURPOSE**

- To increase retention in targeted historically difficult courses
- To improve student grades in targeted historically difficult courses
- To increase graduation rates and progress toward degrees

**EFFECTIVENESS**

Studies show that students who attend supplemental instruction sessions earn significantly higher final course grades than those who do not, even among students with lower incoming SAT or ACT scores (Congos and Schoeps, Studies in Higher Education, 1993; Congos, Langsam, and Schoeps, 1997).

**HISTORY**

Supplemental Instruction was developed at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC) in 1973 to address high failure rates among minorities in medical school. The program quickly spread to UMKC’s health and professional schools. By 1981, the U.S. Department of Education named SI an Exemplary Education program. Few postsecondary programs hold such a distinction. Today more than 1,800 institutions in the U.S. and 27 other countries have implemented SI.

— University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**CONTACT US**

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**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION**

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

122 Student Success Center  (937) 775-5770
Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic assistance program that utilizes peer-assisted study sessions. Regularly scheduled informal review sessions allow students to compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and become better prepared for exams. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working together. Students who have previously done well in the course become SI leaders. They facilitate the sessions, attend all class lectures, take notes, and act as model students.

SI is free and open to anyone enrolled in the course. Studies have shown that students who regularly attend these sessions can expect to earn a final grade of at least a letter grade higher than those who did not.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION LEADER SELECTION**

The SI specialist works closely with faculty members to hire, train, and supervise SI leaders.

SI leaders must have:
- demonstrated academic success.
- received a recommendation from a faculty member.
- earned a grade of A or B in the course being considered.
- a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher.
- the ability to communicate effectively.
- an interest in helping others.

**CERTIFICATION**

All SI leaders must attend two training sessions per semester to work with Tutoring Services. One is offered before the SI leader begins work, the other at mid-semester. SI leaders must also attend focus group sessions with other SI leaders throughout the semester.

**FACULTY SUPPORT**

The SI Team

The SI specialist, SI leaders, and faculty members all work together for success.

Promote SI study sessions

Class Announcement: SI attendance is voluntary. It’s important to let the SI leader promote the SI sessions for a few minutes at the beginning of your first or second lecture of the semester.

Endorsement: Include SI information in your syllabus and endorse the sessions at the beginning and throughout the semester prior to class by displaying a PowerPoint slide with session times. You may also provide the SI leader a few minutes at the beginning of class each week to make announcements.

Meet with your SI leader

Meet with your SI leader once each week or bi-weekly to discuss what took place in the session and share ideas on how to present difficult subject matter.

Help select your SI leaders

Contact the SI specialist to provide input on your preference for an SI leader to facilitate SI sessions for your course.