INVEST IN SUCCESS

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION
Study sessions for tough courses
TAKE THIS QUICK QUIZ

I teach a course that has ...

- T  F
  - Large class enrollment.
  - Historically difficult material.
  - Potential for students to benefit by attending study sessions.

If you answered “True” to any of the above — consider Supplemental Instruction (SI) as a course of action.

WHAT IS SI?

In a nutshell, Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a peer-mentoring program that targets difficult classes. Smart, savvy students who have previously taken the courses run study sessions outside the classroom. SI works — Purdue data indicates that students who take advantage of SI earn better grades. In fact, 95% of the students who attended eight or more sessions earned a grade of C or better.

- Involves weekly study sessions run by SI student leaders
- Targets high-risk courses
- Includes instructors in the process

Supplemental Instruction is a key way to support learning in your course. The peer-to-peer interactions allow students to explain, explore and elaborate what they know. Simultaneously, it allows them to clarify what they may be struggling to understand.

MARCY TOWNS
PROFESSOR • CHEMISTRY

1 HOUR OF SI EQUALS 2 HOURS STUDYING ALONE
THE SI TEAM

The SI program has been designed to minimize additional faculty time commitment. On average, this includes:

Promote SI study sessions **2 min.**
- **CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT.** Since SI attendance is voluntary, it’s important to let the SI leader speak for a few minutes at the beginning of your first or second lecture to promote the study sessions.
- **ENDORSEMENT.** Include SI session information in your syllabus and verbally endorse the session at the beginning and throughout the semester by displaying a PowerPoint slide with session times prior to class. Provide SI leader a few minutes at the beginning of class to make weekly announcements.

Meet weekly with SI leader **10–30 min.**
Briefly discuss with your SI leader what took place in the session and share ideas on how to present difficult subject matter.

Interview and help select your SI student leaders **Optional**

FACULTY

The SI coordinator, student leader and faculty all work together for student success.

Students are keenly aware that our SI leaders recently took these courses and were very successful in them. This gives our SI leaders a unique perspective and insight that my students understand, appreciate and make good use of.

JOHNNY E. BROWN
PROFESSOR • MATHEMATICS

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STUDENT LEADERS
In small, informal groups, SI leaders provide the tools students need to find answers on their own and gain confidence.

SI leaders
• Attend each lecture and take notes.
• Design creative lesson plans based on material emphasized in lectures, homework assignments and exam objectives.
• Hold two or three study sessions a week.
• Meet with professor/instructor weekly for feedback.
• Encourage students to attend SI sessions.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION COORDINATOR
Through Student Success Programs at Purdue, Supplemental Instruction has grown to be a vital component of enhancing existing curricula to foster student success.

SI coordinator and assistants
• Design, implement and coordinate SI program.
• Recruit SI leaders.
• Manage the day-to-day operations of the program.
• Track attendance and progress of students participating in SI study sessions.

JENNIFER BRADY
PRE-PHARMACY
SI helps me flourish as a Purdue student; it keeps me disciplined in my studies. Each SI session is unique and organized so that students can develop optimal study skills. The SI leaders are very knowledgeable, so I know what I learn is a good reinforcement from lecture.
DAVID BOS
CONTINUING LECTURER • BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

"Meeting with my student leaders makes for a more enjoyable workplace environment. They feel more unified with their co-workers when they have this interaction. This meeting time satisfies a need for connection."

Discover how easy it is to establish Supplemental Instruction as part of your course and help students succeed.

Contact:
Supplemental Instruction (SI)
Student Success at Purdue
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OUTSTANDING SI PROGRAM OF THE YEAR
International Center for Supplemental Instruction, University of Missouri-Kansas City

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