

Supplemental Instruction

What is Supplemental Instruction?

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is nationally recognized academic support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions. SI sessions are voluntary, regularly-scheduled, peer facilitated informal review sessions in which students compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and predict test items. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working cooperatively. “SI leaders” are students who have previously been successful in the course and recommended by the teacher. The leaders attend all class lectures, take notes, and act as model students.

What is the purpose of SI?

The purpose of SI is to reduce the attrition rates and improve student grades within traditionally high risk courses, resulting in student retention and success.

How does it work?

Since SI has a non remedial approach to learning, the program targets high-risk courses rather than high-risk students. All students are encouraged to attend SI sessions, as it is a voluntary program. Students with varying levels of academic preparedness and diverse ethnicities participate.

Who are the SI leaders?

The SI leaders are recommended and approved by the teacher. They are trained in proactive study skills and learning strategies needed for the courses, as well as facilitation and group study skills. SI leaders conduct 2-3 out of class study sessions each week. They are not experts or tutors and do not portray themselves in this manner. The SI leader is the model student who assists the students in studying for the course.

How did SI get started?

SI was created by Dr. Deanna Martin, at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1973. After initially offering SI at the health science professional schools, it was extended throughout the university. After a rigorous review process in 1981, the SI Program became one of the few postsecondary programs to be designated by the U.S. Department of Education as an Exemplary Educational Program. Currently, SI is successfully used nationally and internationally.

SI started at ACC in a small pilot program used in Math and Chemistry courses. With the initial success, SI is expanding to include English and History in Fall 2008.