

BCC/LC - SI: An Informational Handout for Instructors

Q: What is Supplemental Instruction?

A: Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an internationally recognized academic assistance program designed to help students navigate historically difficult courses through additional exposure to, and practice with, course material in a group setting.

Q: What is a historically difficult course?

A: Courses that have been statistically shown to have a high rate of combined grades of *D* and *F*, *Withdrawal* and *Incomplete* by students each semester.

Q: Who are Supplemental Instruction Leaders?

A: A student who has successfully completed the course with a B+ or higher and maintains a GPA of 3.25 and has a recommendation from his/her instructor. SI Leaders attend class so as to be on point with your class at all times. SI Leaders provide regularly scheduled review sessions to clarify and reinforce student learning of the course material.

Q: Who attends SI sessions?

A: Hopefully all levels of students. The student having difficulty with the course content and those students looking to improve or maintain their grade.

Q: When and where are SI sessions held?

A: The SI Leader will survey students to determine when most students can attend and then request a classroom, computer lab or conference room around campus.

Q: What happens during a typical SI session?

A: A typical session might include reviewing class material through encouraging group discussion, model successful student behavior by demonstrating useful study skills, note taking strategies and time management. Many of the techniques discussed in an SI session can be applied to other courses. These sessions are voluntary and open to any student taking the course. SI is a chance for students to meet with peers from their class to compare notes, work through problems, discuss concepts, strengthen study skills, and apply new knowledge.

Q: Do I need an SI leader for each session of a course I teach or can I utilize the same SI leader for all sessions?

A: Some faculty will utilize one SI leader for multiple courses if their schedule permits while others will have a different SI leader for each course.

Q: What are SI Leaders responsible for?

A: Participating as an active student in your class and engaging with students during their SI sessions. Their primary role is to facilitate SI sessions but can also help with occasional needs during class.

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Q: What are my responsibilities?

A: Faculty should encourage students to attend SI sessions and engage with the SI leader and serve as a resource for the SI leader in helping students be successful. Many faculty also meet with their SI leader once or twice a month.

Q: What are the benefits I can expect to see by having an SI Leader?

A: Students will acquire short-term and long-term study skills while learning how to organize class materials and prepare more thoroughly for exams. SI session will allow students to compare notes, discuss important concepts, and develop strategies for studying the subject with classmates. This will increase participation, and teach students to collaborate with one another, as well as become independent learners.

Q: What is an SI Leader not to do?

A: SI Leaders are not Teaching Assistants, they are not to grade tests, quizzes or teach the class for the instructor.

Q: How does SI differ from tutoring?

A: Since SI leaders are connected to a specific course section they can design SI session around what was covered in class and foster collaborative learning. Tutoring is generally one-on-one and while tutors are knowledgeable in content areas, they are not attending the same class as the student seeking assistance.

Q: Who can I contact for more information regarding the SI program at BCC?

A: Chad Argotsinger, Director of Tutoring and Academic Support, B117, 508-678-2811, x2640, chad.argotsinger@bristolcc.edu.