



What is Supplemental Instruction?

Supplemental Instruction, or SI, is an academic support program designed to improve students' academic success and increase retention. The SI program targets traditionally difficult courses and provides regularly scheduled, peer-to-peer organized study sessions. These sessions are available to ALL students enrolled in the class at no cost.

What are historically difficult courses?

Historically difficult courses are those that, across institutions of higher education, have high failure or withdrawal rates.

In addition, in SI you will experience...

- Weekly study sessions led by a peer who has successfully taken the course.
- An informal study group where it's ok to make a mistake.
- A place to collaborate and share study tips.
- A way to grasp tough material and break it down into understandable segments.
- A way to save time, money and frustration.
- To increase retention and graduation rates.

What are the benefits of attending SI?

- It's FREE!
- SI sessions are voluntary, informal and casual.
- You get to meet with classmates to compare notes.
- Develop study skills and strategies.
- Ask questions to your SI Leader and review class material in a new way.
- With regular attendance, SI increases your ability to earn a better course grade.

Who facilitates the SI sessions?

SI sessions are facilitated by trained SI Leaders; students nominated by faculty who have successfully taken the course in a previous semester and have mastered course content. Also, they must have an overall GPA of a minimum of 3.2. SI Leaders attend classes with you so they can better assist you during the SI sessions.

Who attends SI sessions?

SI is open to ALL students enrolled in the targeted course and therefore attracts students from all ability levels. SI helps "A" students keep their "A" as well as assists struggling students to pull-up their grades.

What are the differences between SI and Peer-Tutoring?

| Supplemental Instruction (SI) | Peer-Tutoring (PT) |
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| SI Leader works with a group of students. | Peer Tutor works with 1–2 student(s) at a time. |
| The SI Leader attends a designated class. | The Peer Tutor is not required to attend a section of the course. |
| The SI Leader works with a specific faculty member. | The Peer Tutor is not associated with 1 designated faculty member. |
| SI Leaders emphasize collaborative learning strategies. | Peer Tutors emphasize individual study and organizational skills. |
| Best of all... Both academic support services are complementary and can be used simultaneously. | |



When are the SI sessions held?

SI sessions are held regularly at least 2 times per week. Group study sessions begin during the second week of classes. The SI leader will survey the class to determine what day and time is best for the majority of students to attend the session, then results are reviewed and a session time is set. Additional extended group study review sessions may be held prior to major exams and/or midterms and finals. For the current SI Sessions Schedule check the website.

How do I know if courses I am taking are offering SI?

SI offerings change every semester. SI Leaders will visit your class on the first day to discuss SI. Also, you can refer to the SI webpage and review the list of Courses with SI and the Schedule of SI Sessions or consult with your professor or academic advisor. Visit the SI office at the Tutoring & Testing Center, located in the 2nd Floor of the Student Affairs Building, or contact us at (954) 262-8391.

What happens during a typical SI session?

During SI sessions, students will review lecture presentations, engage in thoughtful class discussions regarding course topics, apply concepts, compare notes, as well as learn new study skills, such as memory techniques, note-taking, and test-taking strategies.

Sometimes SI Leaders will review for upcoming exams by playing Jeopardy or other fun games with their groups. Students will focus on "what to learn" while learning "how to learn." Discover the secrets of academic excellence!

Why should I attend SI?

Research studies indicate that students earn better grades when they work actively with the course material and participate in small group discussions. Therefore, you should expect the SI sessions to be interactive, yet have an informal atmosphere where you and your classmates can explore important concepts, review class notes, discuss reading assignments, work practice problems and go over relevant study skills.

Just ask any student who attends SI sessions how the group study has benefited them.

View ***Student Testimonials***.

How do I become an SI Leader?

At NSU, SI Leaders are nominated by faculty to ensure content mastery. Prospective SI leaders also go through an interview process with SI program staff. Students are required to have earned a grade of A or B in the course and maintain a 3.2 or higher GPA. SI Leaders work approximately 8-10 hours per week.

The SI program employs student leaders who have a passion for helping others learn better. The SI Leader attends lectures, conducts weekly review sessions, prepares lesson plans, interfaces with faculty, and attends SI meetings. This position requires maturity, initiative, and strong subject knowledge.

Who can I contact if I have more questions regarding the SI program at NSU?

Email: siprogram@nova.edu

Phone Number: (954) 262-8391

Website: nova.edu/tutoring-testing/supplemental-instruction

Why do SI Leaders take attendance?

Attendance is taken to track participation and assist with overall program evaluation.