

Supplemental Instruction
at
North Carolina Central University

What is SI?

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a peer-led academic support program that provides assistance to students enrolled in high difficulty entry level courses; usually within the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Mathematics Department. SI was developed by Dr. Deanna Martin in 1973 at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and because of its proven success in improving student performance and retention it has grown into an international program.

How does it differ from traditional tutoring services?

SI differs from traditional tutoring because of its collaborative approach to student success. The SI program is student facilitated and student focused. SI leaders are trained upper classmen who have been successful in the course they will serve as a SI leader in. These students not only offer 3-5, 50 minute SI sessions which focus on helping students understand what to study as well as how to study; they also attend all class lectures, modeling appropriate class room behavior and building rapport with SI participants.

What are the benefits of SI?

It is stigma-free;
It teaches students what to study as well as how to study in a collaborative and engaging manner;
It is a great way for students to meet new people and be further engaged within the university.

Frequently Asked Questions

What courses have SI?

Supplemental Instruction will be offered in the following courses for the Spring 2012 Semester:

- Math 1000;
- Chemistry 1000, 1100, 1200;
- Biology 1100 & 1300; and
- English 1110 & 1210. If you are taking any of these courses please review the link below to see if your particular class has SI attached and if so, who your SI leader(s) will be for this semester.

What is a SI Session?

A SI session is an opportunity for students to work together to learn what to study as well as how to study! Students come to SI sessions to review difficult concepts discussed in class, and receive assistance with homework and class assignments when appropriate. Students also learn techniques that will improve both their study skills and test taking capabilities as the sessions are facilitated by SI leaders (upperclassman) who have been successful in the course.

How often are SI sessions held?

Three to five 50-minute sessions are held each week. Your SI Leader will provide you with a copy of the SI Schedule during the second week of classes. This information will also be posted here so please check back on 2/3/2012.

Who attends SI?

EVERYONE, SI is open to all students enrolled in a SI supported course and all are encouraged to attend SI session. Whether you have an A or are striving to reach that goal SI is sure to offer something that will benefit you!

Student Reviews

- My SI leader is a great tutor. She knows the material and cares about how she tutors all of us!
- My SI leader was very knowledgeable on the subject and broke information down in simplest form, so I could understand better.
- My SI leader is an awesome tutor! Very helpful and consistent.
- MY SI LEADER IS THE BEST!

HOW TO BECOME A SI LEADER**How can I apply to be an SI Leader?**

To apply to become a SI Leader, please contact Dr. Daysha M. Lawrence, Director of Supplemental Instruction by phone at 919-530-6973 or via email at dlawren5@nccu.edu.

What is Supplemental Instruction?

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What are the SI Leaders' responsibilities?

SI Leaders are peer students responsible for leading a minimum of three 50-minute peer-facilitated sessions per week for his/her assigned course. Primary SI Leader responsibilities include:

- Facilitating at least 3 SI sessions every week using collaborative and active learning strategies.
- Sitting in on the lectures for the assigned class every week.
- Taking notes on the material covered in the lectures.

- Making announcements in class about when and where SI sessions will be held.
- Developing a working relationship with the professor/TA for the course.
- Attending a training session at the beginning of the semester.
- Promoting the program.
- Attending all staff meetings/training, including new Leader orientation before classes begin and throughout the semester.
- Additional administrative responsibilities.

All SI Leader responsibilities take about 10 hours per week, which leaves time for other employment or leadership experiences. We require SI Leaders to ensure those 10 hours per week are dedicated to SI.

What are the benefits of being an SI Leader?

The SI Leader position is a paid, professional opportunity ideally for student leaders who want to:

- Build rapport with an academic department.
- Develop facilitation skills.
- Review an academic discipline in preparation for an advanced degree.
- Help peer students develop study skills.

Minimum Qualifications Needed to Apply:

Qualifications are listed below. Students interested in the SI Leader position who do not meet all general qualifications are encouraged to contact the Director of SI to discuss your circumstances.

Minimum General Qualifications:

- Must be enrolled as a North Carolina Central University student while an SI Leader, undergraduate students preferred.
- Meet the following GPA conditions:
 - Must have an established NCCU minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
 - Must have a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher for the most recent semester completed. (Exceptions for study abroad, co-ops, and other experiential opportunities.)
- Must be able to attend all SI meetings and training sessions.
- Must be friendly and enjoy working with people.

Minimum Course-Specific Qualifications (Qualifications apply to each course for which you are interested in being a Leader):

- Must have completed the course at North Carolina Central University, earning a B+ grade or higher; Special exceptions:
 - Did you test out of the course, or complete credit for the course at another institution?

- Are you currently enrolled in the course?
 - Completion of higher level coursework is also acceptable.
- Must be willing and able to attend all scheduled lectures for the course.
 - Must be able to plan and facilitate at least three 50-minute SI sessions per week.
 - Must have demonstrated content knowledge in the subject area of the course.

Frequently Asked Questions and Exceptions

- **I am still enrolled in a course for which I want to apply to be a Leader. Can I apply?**
You can apply to be an SI Leader for the upcoming semester if you are still enrolled in the course. If you are offered a future SI Leader position prior to completion of the course, your offer will be conditional until your final grade in the course can be verified.
- **Can I be a Leader for a course while I am enrolled in the course?**
No.
- **Can I apply to be a Leader for a course that I have tested out of or will not take at NCCU?**
For some courses, we will consider you as a candidate for a course you will not take at NCCU, *if* you have already completed related, higher-level coursework. For example, an applicant who has completed MATH 1110 can still be considered for MATH 1000.
- You may also apply for SI Leader positions for courses you completed at another institution, assuming you understand that the course content at NCCU may differ from your own experience. You may be asked to provide a transcript showing the grade received in the course.
- **Can I be a Leader for a course that is not in my major?**
Yes. Many courses for which SI is offered are required for a variety of majors, which means you will have the content knowledge needed for the course for which you will be a Leader.
- **Can I apply anytime? --or-- What if I miss the deadline?**
We accept applications at any time from individuals who want to be considered for any future SI Leader openings. It is generally best to apply as soon as you are interested.
- **Can I apply if I am a graduate student?**
Yes. Overall, we do want to hire the best candidates possible. There are a few reasons why we prefer our Leaders to be undergraduate students, but we will accept applications from any currently enrolled NCCU student, regardless of classification. If you are a graduate student, you should recognize the following:
 - Being a Teaching Assistant and SI Leader for the same course/section is likely a conflict of interest.
 - The SI Leader position does not qualify as an assistantship, and does not include the benefits of an assistantship.
- **Can I apply if I am an international student?**
Yes, if you have "work eligible immigration status." To check on your status, please contact the Office of International Affairs (1801 Fayetteville Street 102, 103 Lee Biology Building). Please verify your work eligibility before applying.

- **Can I apply if I will be transferring to North Carolina Central University, or if I transferred to NCCU?**

Yes. Transfer students should submit a copy of their transcript from their current institution to demonstrate their academic ability, based on GPA and grades in specific coursework. Since differences may exist between your prior course content and the course(s) for which you want to be an SI Leader, also be prepared to demonstrate how your prior course content relates to the North Carolina Central University course content. You can refer to the University Catalog for comparison of courses.

Training and Support of SI Leaders

We provide new SI Leaders with an initial training and orientation to the position and program, which is traditionally scheduled the week before classes begin each semester. Throughout the semester, all Leaders experience on-going training designed to help Leaders develop strategies to strengthen skills. We believe the skills SI Leaders develop are transferable to numerous future careers. We do not provide SI Leaders with training in any content area, which is why this knowledge is expected prior to application.

Which courses will have SI?

- Math 1000;
- Chemistry 1000, 1100, 1200;
- Biology 1100 & 1300; and
- English 1110 & 1210.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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