Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program

What is SI?

History of Supplemental Instruction
• Started in 1973 at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.
• Currently used at 1500+ institutions in over 30 countries worldwide.

Goals of Supplemental Instruction
• Reduce the attrition rate in traditionally difficult courses.
• Improve students’ academic performance in these courses. (F’s → D’s or better, etc.)
• Help students develop study strategies (thinking & reasoning, responsibility, & reflection) to assist them in the targeted course and in future courses.

An Overview of the SI Program
• The SI Program targets traditionally difficult courses. A difficult course typically has a high percentage of students who earn D or F grades or Withdraw.
• SI provides regularly scheduled, out-of-class, peer facilitated study sessions.
• SI does not specifically target students who are high-risk students; SI is not a remedial academic program.
• Participation in SI is voluntary, free-of-charge, and open to all students in the course.
• SI provides an opportunity for students to learn how-to-learn and what-to-learn.
• SI Leaders attend all lectures for the targeted course and meet with the course instructor.

Fall 2011 Target Courses:
BIO101, BIO225, ECO101, PSY100, PSY200

Tell me, and I forget.
Show me, and I remember.
Involve me, and I understand.
~ Chinese Proverb

Results of Pilot SI program (Winter 2011)
Target Courses were BIO101, ECO101, PSC113, PSY100 and PSY200.

Each of the target courses displayed at least two of the three indicators of success:
• Improved DFW rate
• Improved academic performance for SI participants
• High satisfaction ratings

Sample data from BIO101.01
• Number Enrolled: 35 students
• SI Attendance: 22 students (63%)
• Former DFW rate: 14%
• DFW rate for Winter 2011: 3%

DFW Rates by Discipline (data from UMKC 2003-2006)