

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is SI?

Supplemental instruction began at the University of Missouri Kansas City in 1973. It is a well-established practice on dozens of campuses across the country. SI has been at Fullerton on a small scale since the 1990's, but has only recently been institutionalized and offered in a broad range of courses on campus.

The idea of SI is to provide peer-facilitated study sessions for courses that have traditionally low success rates. Each week, SI Leaders plan a 50 minute study session that reinforces the class concepts through collaborative learning. This 50 minute session is repeated two (or in some cases three) times each week. Attendance is optional for the students enrolled in the class.

So SI is like teaching?

Not as much as you might think. Leading an SI session is more like leading a study group than teaching a class. The professor is responsible for delivering the course content. SI Leaders facilitate additional practice with the course content.

How will I know what to do during SI?

The professor of the course will provide the weekly topics and you will work closely with your mentor to plan the sessions each week.

The program provides extensive training and mentoring. We make the professional development of our employees a top priority. There are required training days, weekly mentoring meetings, observations with constructive feedback, online resources, and peer support. SI Leaders are part of a rich community that is encouraging and collegial.

Training our SI Leaders is about more than making them prepared to lead SI. It is also about their personal and professional growth. Our goal is that our SI Leaders will have stronger life skills and a better resume.

What qualities do you look for in an SI Leader?

SI Leaders need to be very responsible, academically successful (especially in the SI course), and should have strong interpersonal skills. Beyond that we have found that students with a wide range of personalities can be very successful in SI.

When are the SI sessions scheduled each week?

Generally, we want to schedule SI sessions right after the first class meeting and right before the second class meeting. However, this is flexible, and we will work with your schedule to determine the best times for SI

What is the pay and workload for SI Leaders?

SI Leaders begin at \$12 per hour and generally work eight hours per week, as described here:

- *Two hours per week to lead the SI sessions*
- *Two hours per week to prepare their SI sessions*
- *Three hours per week to sit in the class and model good student behavior (or more depending on how many hours per week the class meets; if the course has a lab the SI Leader does not attend the lab)*
- *Half an hour per week in a mentor meeting with one of the SI Coordinators or Peer Mentors*
- *Half an hour per week to meet with the instructor*

Additionally, the SI Leader is required to attend several mandatory (paid) training days

What if I have a conflict in my schedule that does not permit me to attend the class meetings?

For first time SI Leaders we are very strict about this. You must be able to attend the class session. The Coordinators will try to work you to place you in a class that works with your schedule.

What if I cannot attend a required training?

We take the training extremely seriously (especially for new SI Leaders), and we would want to know exactly why you are unable to attend. It would need to be an extremely good reason. In short, we want you to plan ahead to be there, even if it means canceling other plans if possible. This is a great job and we expect it to be a high priority on your list.

However, we are reasonable people, and if you have a truly unavoidable reason to miss a training day, we will try to work with you to make up the required training.

Can I be an SI Leader if I have another job on campus as well?

No. District policy does not allow us to hire anyone who works elsewhere on campus, with the notable exception of tutors in the Writing Center and the Tutoring Center. Those are the only district employees that we can hire as SI Leaders.

Can I miss SI Sessions to study for my own classes?

No. Cancelling SI for any reason other than health or bereavement is a real breach in trust with the students who depend on SI. The SI Coordinators feel strongly that the grades of our SI Leaders are very important and we want to help our SI Leaders be very successful. We are happy to discuss strategies for managing hectic schedules. However, the two hours per week that you are leading SI are not the place to find extra study time.

What if I have further questions?

You may call or email Jessica Johnson with any questions:

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