Frequently Asked Questions
For Faculty and Instructors about SI and SI Leaders

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I. What are "SI, SI Leaders, and SI Sessions"?

"**SI**" is short for "Supplemental Instruction. It is a program in the Academic Learning & Tutoring Center ("ALTC") (located in the basement of Howard-Tilton Memorial Library). It is an academic support program that is led by students, or "**SI Leaders**," who have done well in a class and are recommended by their professors. SI Leaders host "**SI Sessions**," or one-hour review sessions outside of class, where students and SI Leaders can review and practice course materials.

II. What are the benefits of SI to students and faculty?

For SI Leaders, SI is a great way for them to develop teaching, leadership, and management skills. They can also build a closer relationship with their faculty, and they are paid a semester stipend for their work.

For professors and the university, SI assists students in their academic performances, which in turn, strengthens retention to the university. Professors can gain another perspective of their class from the SI Leader about where students may or may not be struggling in their course.

III. What are the criteria for a student to be a SI Leader for my section(s) and course?

Students should be current Tulane students (either graduate or undergraduate), have taken your class, and received an 'A' in your class. Exceptions can be made in coordination with Maria, the program coordinator for Supplemental Instruction.

IV. Is it effective?

Yes, if a student in class attends 5 or more SI Sessions, then they should see an improvement in their course grade. While there is a plethora of factors that affect a student's final grade, SI has been proven to increase course grades even when outside factors are considered[i].

V. How much does SI cost to students and to faculty and departments?

$0. SI Sessions are free to students and departments. SI Leaders are paid a **semester stipend** for their work by the ALTC ($1350/ undergraduate; $1500/ graduate).

VI. Are SI Leaders trained?

Yes, SI Leaders must complete onboarding and orientation prior to the start of classes. Throughout the semester, SI Leaders must attend monthly SI leaders' meetings, which often entail development and training workshops focused on peer leadership and education, and they must also complete Weekly Reports and input session attendance into Accudemia, the

scheduling platform used by the ALTC. Additionally, Maria conducts observations and one-on-ones with each SI Leader to provide feedback and advice to SI Leaders.

VII. How do I know if my class "qualifies" for SI or needs a SI Leader?

Generally, SI targets **entry-level classes** that have higher-than-average rates of C's, D's, F's, and withdrawals -traditionally STEM courses although there are exceptions with a couple of higher level courses. SI Sessions are peer-led, and their primary focus is not to re-lecture or teach new material, but to work through difficult concepts and review practice problems and questions.

VIII. If I have a student in mind to be my SI Leader, what should I do?

It is recommended that you speak with the student first to see if they would be interested in being your SI Leader. If they are, you may share with them the "**SI Leader Application"** form (see "Useful Links" below). If for some reason you cannot speak with the student, you may fill out the "**Faculty SI Leader Nomination/ Request**" form (See "Useful Links" below). In either case, Maria will receive the filled-out forms and email the perspective SI Leader to either send them an application or schedule an interview.

IX. What do I do if I am a new instructor to Tulane, and this is my first semester teaching (and I don't know a student to nominate)?

It's great that you are considering SI. It is best to first ask fellow instructors and faculty members if they may know a student who may be a good nominee. If your colleagues do not know, you can email Maria, or complete the "Faculty SI Leader Nomination/ Request Form" in the "Useful Links" section below.

X. I currently have a SI Leader in my class. Do I keep the same student or chose a new one for the following semester/ year?

It is your choice to decide if you'd like the same or a different SI Leader for your class. Alternatively, SI Leaders have the choice at the end of every semester to choose to remain a SI leader and if so, for what class and professor.

Generally, SI Leaders continue with the same course and professor from year to year. If the professor changes, then the SI Leader will remain in the same course but will have a new professor. **Preference is given** to returning and current SI Leaders in filling SI courses; however, if you have any issues or concerns about your SI Leader, please email Maria.

XI. How do I know if I need or already have a SI Leader for the Fall (2022)?

It is best to email Maria, who can confirm whether there is a SI Leader for your course or not. Keep in mind that every year, a cohort of SI Leaders graduate, so younger SI Leaders sometimes fill in those graduating SI Leaders' courses. Additionally, some SI Leaders choose to study abroad or to take a break from being a SI Leader.

XII. When is the deadline to nominate a student as my SI Leader?

For the Fall of 2022 cohort, the deadline to nominate a SI Leader is **August 5, 2022**. It is best though to nominate or confirm **sooner rather than later**. You can find the link to nominate a student below in the "Useful Links" section.

Please note as well that current SI Leaders (Spring 2022) may reach out to you to confirm or request to be your SI Leader for the Fall. If you approve, the SI Leader should then inform Maria.

XIII. Does every section or professor in a course or department have a SI Leader?

No, not necessarily. Due to budget constraints, not every course and professor at Tulane can have a SI Leader. Entry-level classes, particularly in STEM, are the focus and priorities for the SI Program (Chemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology, Neuroscience, Psychology, Mathematics, Economics, Biomedical Engineering, Accounting, Physics, Computer Science, and Languages).

Typically, for classes that do need SI, each professor is given 1 SI Leader per course, regardless of how many sections there are in that course. For example, for "Intro to Microeconomics," there may be 3 different professors, but a total of 6 sections, with each professor having 2 sections. Because there are 3 different professors for one course, there will be 3 SI Leaders, 1 for each professor, and each SI Leader will assist students for both of the professor's sections.

There are, however, exceptions and variability in each semester.

Example: All "Financial Accounting" sections and professors have a SI Leader, but the same is not true for "Financial Management."

Course	Section(s)	Title	Faculty	SI Leader
ACCN 2010	4, 5	Financial Accounting	Christy Lynch	Rachel Krouk
ACCN 2010	1, 2, 6	Financial Accounting	Christine Smith	Nathan (Nate) Trajano
ACCN 2010	3, 7, 8	Financial Accounting	Gaetano De Franco	Dillon Krug
FINE 3010	2, 5, 9	Financial Management	Goeun Choi	Adam Huberman
FINE 3010	3, 4	Financial Management	Hui Zhou	Claire Ferguson

XIV. What should I expect from SI Leaders during the semester?

SI Leaders are expected to keep in contact, either in-person or through email, with their professor. There is no set number of times when SI Leaders should meet with their faculty member, but it is encouraged that they meet or contact their instructor at least once a month.

At the beginning of each semester, the SI Leader should be assigned to your Course's Canvas Page, as the "Supplemental Instruction Leader," and they should make an announcement in the beginning of the semester of themselves and their role. SI Leaders, from the Canvas page, will be able to contact the students to figure out the best days and times for their sessions.

SI Leaders should always be respectful to students and instructors. They should be open to answering students' questions that relate to the SI Course's material; however, they may set boundaries in their communication (ex. only through email or GroupMe, no private messages, cannot respond past 9pm, etc…) to maintain professionalism and their own mental well-being. SI Leaders are expected to make weekly reminders about their SI Sessions to students.

If you believe that your SI Leader is not fulfilling their responsibilities, please email Maria.

XV. Do I need to do anything extra for SI and the SI Leader?

No, not strictly speaking, but it is beneficial to all parties that instructors keep in touch with their SI Leader about the course's material, the SI Leader's lesson plans, and issues students may be having with the class.

XVI. Where can I find the current SI Leaders and Sessions list?

You can find the most current list (Spring 2022) on the ALTC's website (see "Useful Links" below). Please note, it takes a few weeks after the start of the semester for all SI Leaders to confirm their SI Session days, times, and location to Maria, who then uploads it to the website.

USEFUL LINKS:

1) **ALTC SI Web page:** https://success.tulane.edu/support/altc/supplemental-instruction

2) **General SI Brochure:** https://success.tulane.edu/sites/success-dev.tulane.edu/files/SI%20Trifold%20Brochure.pdf

3) **Latest SI Schedule (with Leaders, Courses, and Session Time and Days):** https://success.tulane.edu/sites/success-dev.tulane.edu/files/Leaders%20Sessions%20Time%20Day%20Location%20for%20ALTC%20Website_Revised%20%281%29.pdf

4) **Faculty SI Leader Nomination/Request Form:** https://forms.office.com/r/MQD430Kn35

5) **SI Leader Application for Students:** https://forms.office.com/r/Yk5HBXY0G3

[i] Dawson, Phillip, Jacques van der Meer, Jane Skalicky, and Kym Cowley. "On the Effectiveness of Supplemental Instruction: A Systematic Review of Supplemental Instruction and Peer-Assisted Study Sessions Literature Between 2001 and 2010." *Review of Educational Research* 84, no. 4 (2014): 609–39. http://www.jstor.org/stable/24434251.