SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION
A PROGRAM OF THE ACADEMIC LEARNING & TUTORING CENTER
NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE | TULANE UNIVERSITY

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The Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program is a part of Tulane University’s Office of Student Success and Strategic Initiatives and specifically, a program of the Academic Learning & Tutoring Center (ALTC).

Located in the basement of Howard-Tilton Memorial Library (Suite B01), the Center is open for all students to use, and its services include:

1. Supplemental Instruction ("SI")
2. Peer Tutoring
3. Writing Center
4. Math Center
5. Study and meeting space
6. A mini-studio for podcast and video creation

For more information, see ALTC’s website:
https://success.tulane.edu/support/altc
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WHAT IS "SI"?

Supplemental Instruction ("SI"), created at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is an internationally recognized academic support program and has been proven to increase student success for those who engage in the learning process. Its aim is to assist students academically by integrating "what to learn" with "how to learn." SI Sessions are led and organized by student peer leaders, who have done academically well in the course for which they are the SI Leader. In these regularly scheduled, voluntary, out-of-class review sessions, students work collaboratively in reading discussions, solving practice problems, comparing notes, working together to prepare for tests, and sharing ideas for improving learning. At Tulane, students see the best GPA outcomes when they attend five or more SI sessions. SI targets courses with high fail and low grade (C's, D's, and F's) rates and is overseen and supported by a program coordinator and former SI leaders, known as "SI Captains."

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

at the University of Missouri-Kansas City
SI LEADERS & SESSIONS

A CLOSER LOOK

SI Leaders are students themselves who have taken the class before and earned a high grade in the course. Faculty typically recommends the Leaders who facilitate the SI sessions. SI Leaders undergo an onboarding and training process. SI Leaders are prepared to share with students how to effectively study for the course. They attend the same class sessions with the students, taking notes, and listening closely to the professor. The SI Leader is supervised by the program coordinator and SI Captains.

At each SI session, the Leader will guide the students through the most difficult course concepts. They will help students make good use of their time and share the strategies he or she used to be successful in the course. They do not teach new material or re-lecture, give out copies of his or her notes, help students with assigned homework, or encourage last minute test cramming. The overall goal of SI sessions it to incorporate a deeper understanding of course content with study skills that can be used with other coursework.
ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

THE UNIQUE POSITION SI LEADERS HOLD

As stated previously, SI Leaders are current Tulane students and are thus, peer leaders. They are not traditional graduate assistants (GAs) or teaching assistants (TAs). While SI Leaders are encouraged to and can help professors with class such as setting up technology or handing out worksheets, they cannot assist with professors in grading quizzes, tests, or exams or run and grade labs. They should also not disclose any information regarding specific materials or problems that will be on the quiz/test/exam.

SI Leaders may be private tutors or a tutor at the ALTC, but they cannot tutor for the class that they are a SI Leader for and must not advertise private tutoring services during their SI sessions.

In rare circumstances, SI Leaders may also be a TA, but this decision largely rests with the class professor and SI program coordinator. It is key that if a SI Leader should become or seek to be a TA or a private tutor, then they understand the weight of their roles and keep each separate from one another.
BENEFITS

WHAT SI OFFERS TO STUDENTS AND FACULTY

The SI program is beneficial to everyone involved. Students who attend SI sessions report higher course grades and learned study skills. SI Leaders report professional development in leadership and facilitation; they also report better, more developed relationships with faculty and a deeper understanding of the content for which they serve. Faculty benefit from having SI support in their classes. Through interactions with the Leader, they have their finger on the pulse of the students in their class, they receive higher student evaluations, and they are more connected with the needs of their students. Finally, university administrators benefit because the data show that course sections with SI support have, on average, a 13% reduction in grades of D, F, and Withdrawals. This helps to raise the retention rate of students in the course.

SI sessions are free to all students.
BECOMING A SI LEADER

AN EXPLANATION

The common way to become a SI Leader is for a professor to nominate a student, whom they believe has the qualifications and aptitude to be a SI Leader for their class. Once a professor has a student in mind, they will reach out to the student and inform them about the opportunity to be a SI Leader and forward them the SI application from ALTC. If a student is interested, they will fill out the application, and the SI program coordinator will review it and schedule an interview.

The SI program coordinator, along with the SI Captains, will interview the student, and if an offer is made, the student will begin the onboarding process to be a SI Leader.

Additionally, if a student did well in a course and feel that they would make an excellent SI Leader for that class, they may nominate themselves, but they must reach out to the professor first to make sure that the professor is agreeable to having the student as their SI Leader*.

*Note: Similarly, if a student becomes a SI Leader, they may be a SI Leader for another class for future semesters—but they must still reach out to the professor. The student does not need to reapply or re-interview.
BECOMING A SI LEADER

AN ILLUSTRATION OF TWO PATHWAYS

Note: “SI P.C.” stands for Supplemental Instruction Program Coordinator
SIGNING UP FOR SI SESSIONS

THE PROCESS

SI Sessions start at the beginning of each semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer), usually in the first or second week of classes. If a student is unsure if their classes has a SI Leader or will be having SI sessions, they may always reach out to their professor or email the SI program coordinator.

The SI Leader will make an announcement about sessions on the first day of class at the beginning of the semester, usually in-person and in Canvas. Students will be asked to fill out a short survey regarding their class schedule and availability. Session locations are subject to change based on classroom availability.

If a student does not have a SI Leader for their class, they may attend a SI Session that is for the same course even if the class has a different professor and time. If a student is unsure, they can email the SI program coordinator for more information and clarity.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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