

Center for Academic Excellence
Supplemental Instruction: Lessons Learned
Spring 2008 and AY 2008-2009

Lessons Learned about SI from poor student attendance data and modest grade improvement.

- Student attendance in SI sessions increase right before an exam
- Student attendance is not consistent. Different students in weekly sessions. A small portion of students are repeaters.
- Students do not seek help in general. Students in SI classes have low tutorial participation as well.
- Low attendance in SI is due to two major reasons: 1). SI is not mandatory and 2). students receive little or not credit for attending
- Low awareness of benefits and purpose of SI
- A&T students spend very little out of class time studying so they are less likely to attend an optional SI session.

Solutions

- Require students enrolled in SI designated classes to attend SI sessions
- Offer SI sessions during actual class hours
- Obtain buy-in and support from campus constituents.

Require students enrolled in SI designated classes to attend SI sessions. San Francisco State University's SI program is mandatory, consequently, participation is strong and student performance (grades) in high failure rate classes has increased. *Discuss SI program with provost and recommend that mandatory SI policy be developed in fall 2009 and pilot implemented in Spring 2010.*

Offer SI sessions during actual class hours. One way to expose students to the benefits of SI is for them to participate in a session. Since most students attend class on a regular basis, the A&T SI Coordinator recommends that an entire class period or a substantial portion of a class session be reserved for the SI Leader to conduct an SI session. An ideal time for the session is before a quiz or test so that students can obtain immediate benefits of SI.

Obtain buy-in and support from campus constituents. CAE will market the SI program to the entire campus, including senior administrators, deans, faculty, advisors and students. The SI program at A&T needs buy in at all levels if it is to be successful. The SI Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, SI leaders and others can serve as "public relations agents" by presenting SI information to campus constituents. SI program will collaborate with Academy for Teaching and Learning to hold workshops.