



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department: Academic Center of Excellence (ACE)
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Room 231
Supplemental Instruction Overview



What is SI?

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is utilized in higher-education institutions worldwide to support students in historically difficult courses. SI uses peer learning to increase student success and retention without reteaching or remediation of course materials.

What is SI training?

SI training is a comprehensive program that equips potential leaders with the necessary skills and techniques to engage and collaborate with students. This includes reviewing a leader manual, watching a video on how to conduct sessions effectively, and learning collaborative techniques to help students better understand course materials.

How has SI improved student retention?

Nicholas Bowman, Stephanie Dreschel, and Danielle Martinez observed the retention in the SI program at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Research has consistently shown that students who participate in Supplemental Instruction (SI) tend to perform better academically and have higher retention rates than those who do not. A study conducted by Martin and Arendale in 1992 examined data mostly gathered from the University of Missouri Kansas City and found that every year out of the 11 years of data, there was a strong correlation between SI involvement and a better chance of obtaining an A or B grade, a lower chance of receiving a D, F, or W, and a higher final course grade.

Furthermore, at the University of Missouri Kansas City, SI participants had greater graduation and retention rates than non-participants, indicating that SI can effectively improve student success and retention. This finding is consistent with national data from 49 institutions, which showed that students who engaged in SI had higher grades and lower DFW rates than those who did not.

It's important to note that while SI has been shown to be effective, it is not a one-size-fits-all solution, and it may not work for every student or in every course. However, for many students, SI can provide valuable support and resources to help them succeed in challenging courses.

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