**Supplemental Instruction (SI) Survey and Summary Report Analysis: Fall 2017**

For the Fall 2017 semester, 28 SI leaders were assigned to cover 65 sections from 28 academic courses taught by 29 faculty members, meeting the needs of potentially 2.094[[1]](#footnote-1) students enrolled on the eleventh day of courses that were assigned an SI leader. SI leader surveys, student end of term surveys, and a summary report were completed to collect data on student satisfaction with SI, student participation in SI, and the impact of SI sessions on students’ grades.   
 It is important to note that one SI leader, for World Literature II, was unable to hold weekly SI sessions, as she is a busy nursing student, wife, and mother. The SI leader arranged to hold group study sessions just before quizzes and exams. This worked out well, and the semester finished strong with those who attended SI sessions averaging a 3.52 Grade Point Average (GPA) versus those who did not attend SI averaging a 2.74 GPA. The SI leader had a student satisfaction rating of 4.4 on a 5.0 scale with 5.0 being the highest, so the venture was successful. Another extenuating circumstance this semester was a request at mid-semester by a math faculty member to add an SI leader for pre-calculus math class, as the students were not doing well. Remarkably, students who attended SI sessions held the second half of the semester averaged a final grade of 2.67, and those who did not attend averaged 1.28 for their final grade. This is a difference of 1.39, an increase of almost three times the amount advertised of SI attendance improving grades.  
 Eleven SI leaders, the most ever, either graduated at the end of the semester or are unable to continue next semester due to other work or internship schedules. A total of 27 SI leaders have been hired or rehired to date for the spring semester. All interviews, applications, references, and schedules have been finalized. No others are expected at this time.   
**SI Leader Surveys** SI leaders were asked several questions concerning their opinions of how the SI program was operated during the fall semester. The answers provide insight and value to the SI leader perspective of the program. Questions such as the type of communication preferred (the majority, 58%, prefer emailing as is the current practice), the type of orientation/training preferred (74%, the majority, prefer meeting the day before classes begin as is the current practice), and when the best time to hold monthly SI leader meetings (there was a tie, 26% each, between 7:00 a.m. before classes start and later on Friday afternoons as is the current practice). For the most part, it appears that current practices are best practices in SAU’s SI program.

Another informal SI leader survey called “Saw-Sharpener Questions”, adapted from Franklin Covey’s *7 Habits for Managers* (2005) curriculum, netted the results below:

1. Do you feel fairly compensated? Most of the SI leaders said that they are.
2. How can we improve your work environment?

* Be able to rent or check out laptops with projection cords for our SI sessions.
* Provide a quiet SI leader office or space that leaders can use for planning sessions. In the feedback I provided SI leaders, I asked them to feel free to use the student office worker’s desk when she is not at work. SI leaders may also go across the hall to the Academic Enrichment Center (AEC), where there are plenty of tables and chairs to use. Finally, I communicated that the SI leaders may use the tables and chairs in the Student Support Services (SSS) administrative office area.

1. In your opinion, what is the greatest need for improvement of the SI program?

* Several SI leaders asked that the SI program be advertised more.
* Organize the SI sessions to not overlap so that students can make it to all of their sessions.
* The Session Planning Sheets are not well-suited to the way sessions are/should be held. I am considering using a simpler form next semester but one that is an option from the SI International office in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Student End of Term Surveys**

The SI End of Term Survey was administered from mid-October through mid-November. Within this five week period, the SI Coordinator visited all sections to which SI leaders were assigned. Students were instructed to take the survey on their phones, or if the class was held in a computer lab, the students took the survey at <https://web.saumag.edu/support/si/end-of-term-survey/>on computers. For students who did not have a phone the day of the survey or who were experiencing technical difficulty, a hard copy of the survey was provided for the student. The SI Coordinator viewed each student’s progress to ensure that the surveys were being taken. A pilot was completed this semester with the students taking clicker surveys in the large biology classes. The SI Coordinator worked with the biology faculty in the design and administration of the SI survey through clickers that are utilized by the biology faculty. As a result, a total of 316 clicker surveys were completed. The number of on-line surveys completed, including the few that data had to entered, totaled 1,073. The grand total of student surveys completed this semester numbers 1,389, 66% of the total of students on the eleventh day of classes assigned an SI leader, slightly up from last semester. Reasons for non-completion of the surveys could be absenteeism the day of the survey and students who dropped or discontinued attendance. In addition, only online students who attended SI sessions were surveyed.

According to the online classroom survey, a total of 556 students did not attend sessions while 517 students did attend, 48% of the total student population completing surveys. The category answered most when asked, “How helpful were the sessions to you?” was “very helpful”, 48% of the total responses received. For students who attended SI sessions, the majority of students, 45%, expected to receive a grade of “B” in their courses. Most students, 39%, stated that they attended 1-2 SI sessions throughout the semester, while 34% attended 3-5 sessions.

As to be expected, mixed reviews resulted from students’ comments on the classroom survey. Copied directly from the SSS SI webpage survey results are as follows:

Please write any comments on the sessions and/or suggestions for improving future sessions. We would appreciate having them.

* The sessions were very helpful, and helped answer any questions I might have had in class.
* Summer Williams was a very fun and helpful SI leader, she was great at answering my questions regarding the course. If she made a mistake on a study guide or in her session she would always own up to it and give us the correct answer/explanation. She is very informative in the course and I wish I could have her again.
* Let them see the material there guess is as good as ours on what is going to be on the test and so we learn the wrong thing
* Nothing, the meetings were great that I attended.
* It was a great and enjoyable way to learn.
* I personally did not think Summer benefited me and my grades. The majority of the time the "study guides" she created and the KaHoot games she made had questions with the wrong answers, which led to confusion and most of the time mistakes on tests and quizzes. This past SI session Dr. Sanson took the material she gave us and checked over it to make sure she did not make any mistakes.
* Teach the right stuff and don't waste time talking bad about other professors and Talley hall.
* More organization
* Idk
* As long as she had her study material prepared, the sessions went well. Sometimes we'd go through a study guide she made and she didn't know the answer to a question that she wrote. Causes lots or confusion.
* the sessions are great
* Nothing, everything is good.
* Catching up. It helped me greatly on my test. I greatly appreciate it .
* More people should come to the SI sessions to be honest.
* Have a study guide.
* It would help a lot more if i could attend on monday's as well, but I have a class that interferes with it so I can only attend thursday.
* I can't normally attend because I work both days. I wish someone would work with the people who can't go.
* I think they are well done as is and helpful.
* She is very helpful with you if you have questions.
* :) Awesome they help
* It actually a wonderful section helped me though this course.
* Having more sessions and practice test
* No improvement comments.
* My work schedule conflicts with sessions often.
* I attended a few and I passed the test that we were studying for.
* Its's difficult for me to attend the sessions due to my personal life(not living on campus, takes about an hour to drive to SAU).
* I gave her my email, but did not receive any emails.
* I think we should do more learning activities.
* I enjoyed Alyssa's sessions very much, as she's been my SI leader before. I've been able to attend a few sessions, but the ones I did attend did help.
* Very helpful.
* They are helpful, but they sometimes conflict with my schedule.
* I wish I could attend more, but I work a lot during the day. Alyssa did a great job. She is very helpful and knowledgeable.
* Alyssa does a great job. She is very good at making it a group learning experience. Everyone learns from one another and she gets it started.
* The session was helpful.
* Alyssa was super helpful during every SI. She prepared us for every class, a quiz, & test.
* Good help.
* I find it very helpful. I have learned a new way to study for class exams.
* She has been so helpful on understanding the hard things.
* The sessions are great; She really gets us to engage!
* It helped to some extent. I just stopped coming as frequently because they got a little confusing sometimes. The big discussions were nice but sometimes they go confusing because a lot of people didn't know what they were talking about and it seemed like the leader got frustrated when we asked questions.
* Alyssa is a great SI! She is very helpful providing information and helping us get ready for tests.
* Erin is awesome!!
* I've only been to one SI session but it was very helpful.
* It was very helpful and it helped me study for my test.
* Erin is a great instructor. She doesn't just get up there and be like you should know this, she actually asks us what we need help what and goes over it. She keeps us involved as well.
* If I attended or studied more I could make higher. I plan to make the rest.
* SI session I attended provided more information than the instructor.
* The sessions I have attended have been good.
* Sophia is amazing, I wish it could be a little longer.
* Don't change a thing! Just don't make children like us work out problems.
* These sessions are amazing. They greatly help me has a student. For improvement I believe longer courses.
* I enjoyed the sessions. It really helps to practice the problems.
* Remind or groupme is helpful to remind me when and where they are.
* They need to be more Homework based.
* I wish the sessions were more HW help oriented, but they are helpful. I wish they were at better times.
* It helped me alot.
* It helps but scheduling conflicts make it hard to make as many as I'd like.
* She is more helpful than the teachr to be honest. keep up the good work, you people are great. :)
* She is really helpful.
* He does very well at being prepared. Always knows exactly what topic we are going over. Very helpful.
* Jesse is a great tutor. He's a big reason for my success.
* I've only been to a few SI's because of time, but see Jesse 2-3 times a week at tutoring.
* Jessi was very helpful even though I am very far behind.
* Make weekend times available for athletes.
* I'd love to go to more but the times just don't work for me.
* Bryce is a good instructor. What we discussed in review for a test helped me, but I feel that there were also things we did not cover that were on the test.
* Great SI sessions. Very helpful.
* The material that we go over some of the material are not on test. I there anything you can do to help me boost grade.
* I think the SI was helpful. I learned a lot of information that helped me on the test.
* The SI session was very helpful preparing for upcoming tests.
* Levi was a great si leader for us
* I wish we could have done more examples rather than the ones we already went over in class.
* Levi was a great si leader and did his best with the difficult class we had. The professor didn’t seem to corespond with Levi however so he really only went through problems we did in class which isn’t that helpful.
* Levi is a great SI and normally explains things better than Dr. Hientz
* Awesome SI
* Micah was very good as an SI leader. He explained well and planned out good lessons and activities.
* Micah is very helpful. He gives good tips and goes to explain things in detail if you speak up and tell him that you don't understand.
* Micah's does a good Putting forth effort to help us get a better understanding of the material. it's very helpful
* Micah is excellent. Very knowledgeable and able to answer any questions that arise.
* Elizabeth is a great SI and she is very faun and helpful.
* More worksheets--that helps with critical thinking on the subjects covered for the exams.
* Elizabeth helped me very much. She printed off sheets to provide a better understanding of the material we were covering in class. When a question was asked, she always provided an answer.
* These sessions were very helpful to me.
* She does a really good job.
* I have found no problems with any of the sessions this year.
* Students do not enjoy games. Students enjoy the si explaining difficult topics. Playing kahoot and socrative as a practice test and just giving helpful tips of how to study for the tests is very helpful.
* Maybe a little earlier in the days if it’s possible.
* Good teacher
* It helped
* I really like the way Lucas teaches.
* The SI Leader was helpful with key concepts, however, was a little shaky on material and problem solving.
* No, I just need to attend more.
* She uses her personal notes which is good.
* The sessions are great working to fit everyone's schedule is difficult at times but Darah works with us.
* More times!!!
* Just wish they could be at a different time, other than that I like SI sessions!
* The Class was great, and I feel as though it helped me refresh on things that I knew. I also learned thing that I did not pick up on on my own or in class.
* I think it would be more beneficial if our instructor posted how to videos, or used more time in the classroom to show students how to complete a project instead of going through a short tutorial.
* It was extremely helpful and the main reason I have understood some of the content of the course
* I have learned more from Azee then the teacher.
* It was very covenient I just could not come down everyday because of my work schedule. I wish I could make more time. Thank you!
* really helped me understand the test better
* I went to get help because I didn't understand some of the material but she went over and explained until I understood it and I did get a better understanding of it.
* The SI is really helpful and I am happy with that.
* The times of tutoring are all through practice times.
* Laura does a great job. I just wish her sessions were a little later.
* I love the way she had a game for learning Accounting.
* Lucas is a very good SI leader, he made sure everyone who was part of the SI section understand the concept of the problems we were doing.
* very helpful!
* Make better available times for SI ON Tuesday
* Always a great help and review before exams
* She did a very good job.
* The only problem I had with Laura's teaching was she spent too long on each part, making sure every person had it when we needed to mainly start a problem then get an answer and then have her explain to the whole class the solution. It could be more efficient.
* She did a great job.
* I think Justin is doing an excellent job as an SI leader
* Its very fun and informative. It never feels boring, and I enjoy learning there.
* Justin has done well being involved in the SI session and explaining material coherent to the individual and making sure that we understand what is being discussed. He does not just give you the answer, he guides you to it through your own thinking. Be like Justin.
* I couldn’t attend as many sessions as I wished because the times never worked with my schedule.
* They are very helpful and will increase your test scores
* I have a conflicting schedule
* Absolutely love Darah! She is very helpful and I made an A on the last test thanks to her.
* I love that we are put in groups and then we write on the board.
* She slows down
* More times a week, my schedule don't let me attend them
* Darah is awesome!!!! Very very helpful
* I enjoyed the sessions that I have been too. It was very interactive and I felt prepared.
* Timing was not great. I have class during that time
* Use remind to remind us about assignments that need to be turned in
* Collaborative study guides created with the assistance of the instructor would be quite useful in the case of this course because of the amount of material. If it is possible in the future, as a student I would recommend the SI and instructor work together to create exam study guides for SI sessions which would increase the attendance and utilization of the sessions. While I am aware that the SI and instructor do meet at least once a week, I would recommend regular meetings to create SI materials that can be used in both the lecture and the SI sessions to help students who are having trouble understanding the concepts of the course.
* Having worksheets and quizzes printed out was the most helpful thing.
* The times are difficult to get given the other SI sessions I have
* I like how she makes practice quizzes. Kahoot is a good tool that should be used.
* it was good.
* it was very helpful for the test.
* very well tutored.
* allow them to look at the test so that they will actually know what will be in the test rather then them guessing.
* I believe using the app Group Me might be easier.
* none
* none
* I would like to go more in depth on the content of the class rather than just going over answers on a study guide. Knowing answers is nice but I want to actually have a good understand on what the answers mean.
* Azee is a great SI Instructor. He knows exactly what he is doing and how to explain methods/concepts easily.
* None!
* Kayla is the best SI leader I have had for any English classes. She helps break down the big events to help me understand the timeline. Do not try to have the SI play games. The games do not help the students at all. It mainly just wastes my time. Some SI can make practice quizzes to help the students understand the concepts.
* Good SI leader!
* SI should be longer
* Great teacher. He help me understand some of the work when I didn't know anything about the problem.
* Si is very helpful and helps we learn what I have trouble with
* Chevy was an awesome S.I. leader and helped me with what I was having trouble with.
* Kassey really helps explain the information in the course.
* She’s really great!
* Review for tests
* The SI is not long enough for this class. SI needs to be more hands on.
* Brice is extremely helpful by being patient and understanding. If we don't get something she will work with us until we understand.
* The SI for this class is very good and very helpful in understanding material.
* It seemed like she was confused often and did not talk very loud.
* She is very helpful.
* Please continue to provide SI 2x week for his class. The prior test sessions are especially helpful. Thank you!
* Its been great! Very good at explaining things.
* She is great!
* Works with you very well. Makes sure you understand material before moving on.
* Brooke has been extremely helpful to me. She answers questions thoroughly and is super nice!
* I went to one session and she never showed up and now I can't go to them because I have class during her times so it really does nothing for me!
* Sessions are great and are very helpful!!
* If this SI wasn't available I would fail this class. It is very helpful! Brooke is a wonderful SI leader.
* Brooke is very helpful and actually helps you with the material you're studying! She is amazing!
* Brooke is AMAZING!!! She helps you understand the information of this class better so much better than if you tried to study on your own.
* Our SInleader is very informative, and helps a whole lot when preparing for a test!
* If the SI leader was kept up with what the teacher was covering and what the teacher expected. Though the SI is able to sit in on the class they don't always know what the teacher wants or expects from the students.
* Brooke is awesome
* I think Brooke is doing great. I can't think of anything that would make it better, other than snacks.
* I went to one SI session with my friend and our SI never showed up, so we left.
* n/a
* Alyssa is great and super interactive. It’s difficult for me to go because of my schedule, but she is great!

When asked to indicate the reason(s) students did not attend SI sessions, the majority of students, 47%, responded that they “wanted to but couldn’t. The session schedules conflicted with work or other classes.” For students who did not attend SI sessions, the majority of students, 42%, expect to receive a grade of “B” in their courses. Finally, when asked, “Did you fill out the time schedule questionnaire for SI sessions at the beginning of the term,” the majority of students, 87%, responded in the affirmative.

Interestingly, when comparing the results of the online classroom survey with the clicker surveys, the category answered most when asked of students on the clicker survey, “How helpful were the sessions to you,” “very helpful” was only answered 30% of the time, a decrease of 18% in satisfaction rates. On the clicker surveys, for students who attended SI sessions, only 34% expect to receive a grade of “B” in their courses, a 11% rate lower than the online survey. The results of the online survey and the clicker survey were almost the same for students attending 1-2 SI sessions – 39% for online and 38% for the clicker survey. However, slightly fewer students taking the clicker survey attended 3-5 sessions throughout the semester – 31% with 34% responding to the online survey. The table on the following page is a visible tool to gauge the differences in the survey results reported.

**Table 1. SI Online and Clicker Survey Comparisons for Selected Responses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Online Survey** | **Clicker Survey** | **Total Survey Avg.** |
| The SI sessions were “very helpful” to me. | 48% | 30% | 39% |
| I expect to make a “B” in this course. | 45% | 34% | 39.5% |
| I have attended 1-2 SI sessions this semester. | 39% | 38% | 38.5% |
| I have attended 3-5 SI sessions this semester. | 34% | 31% | 32.5% |

Comments written on hard copies for students wishing to make them and for students who completed clicker surveys are as follows:

Please write any comments on the sessions and/or suggestions for improving future sessions. We would appreciate having them.

* Have times that do not conflict with other classes.
* I went to another biology SI’s sessions.
* I went to Andrew LeGrand’s SI sessions.
* I enjoyed the fact that Lexi informed us what the session would be over before it started so I could determine if I needed help with a subject or not.
* Wish the sessions weren’t done while I had work.
* Helped me a lot. I went from almost failing the course to starting to pass.
* I went to an SI once, and they were very unorganized. I had to leave early because I felt like it was unhelpful. Other SI’s have helped me in the past, but his one did not.
* The practice tests helped me a lot. More practice tests.
* She is great! I want her to be there for A&P II!
* I’ve gone to other sessions, and I tend to do just as well studying alone. Also, I have gone to others, and they did not help.
* It would have been helpful if she would have been more prepared for the sessions. Maybe for the future, have a student that is more on top of their work and dedicated. I really did like having an SI that was currently in the class because I felt like that had a reason to want to study.
* It was helpful to me. It made me study more and get more into my class. The sheets and PowerPoints were also helpful that were put up after class.
* The SI session was very helpful. I understand more from her than I did from the instructor. She took her time to help us understand.
* In the future, earlier SI sessions would be helpful for students who have to work.
* Maybe hold more SI sessions that are earlier in the day for people who don’t live on campus.
* Make the sessions a little more relaxed and come off a little more approachable.
* Handouts are helpful! ☺

**Future Projections**

In closing, one has to wonder what grade students would make if they did not attend SI at all. The data this and past semesters at SAU continues to support what SI claims, “Students who attend SI consistently tend to earn half a letter grade to a full letter grade higher than students who do not.” The statistics in the University report will be repeated to students at the beginning of next semester in hopes of recruiting more students to attend SI sessions than ever before. There is a greater likelihood that students will attend SI sessions if they know the recent past statistics of SI attendance related to grades for that course.

**Reference**

Covey, Stephen R. (2005). *The 7 habits for managers: managing yourself, leading others,   
 unleashing potential*. U.S.A.: FranklinCovey.

1. This number did not control for students who were enrolled in more than one SI course or those who had more than one SI Leader in a course. For example, if a student was enrolled in two SI courses, he or she counted as two students. This number does not exclude W, WF, NC, or I occurrences. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)