



FAQ: SI Program



1. Which classes have a Supplemental Instruction Leader?

Peer Connections Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders support students enrolled in 'bottleneck' courses – subjects that are required but that also have a higher failure rate.

2. Are the SI sessions online or in-person?

The answer is both! We offer SI sessions in-person and via Zoom. However, due to COVID-19, we are currently only offering Zoom sessions for the time being.

3. What are the responsibilities of an SI leader?

SI leaders attend their scheduled class meetings and hold SI sessions outside of class. During class meetings, SI leaders model good student behavior by taking notes, being prepared and being on time. Moreover, SI leaders support faculty by making classes more interactive and engaging for students. During SI sessions, SI leaders facilitate safe environments for active learning. Furthermore, SI leaders enhance learning by going over important topics covered in class, sharing study tips and strategies.

4. How are SI sessions conducted?

SI Leaders create original practice material with guidance from the professor, and activities in the sessions are not only designed to improve understanding of course content but also study strategies and "how to's" about that course from their experience and regular communication with the professor.

5. What are the qualifications of an SI leader?

SI leaders are academically successful students who have taken and passed their assigned SI course with an A. Furthermore, SI leaders have a strong understanding of the content in their assigned course and are able to articulate that understanding to others.





6. What is not part of the SI Leader's responsibilities?

SI leaders are not responsible for assessing, evaluating or grading students. They do not write exam questions nor input grades on Canvas. They do not provide one on one help outside of the class/session time. When students need one on one help, students are referred to tutors at Peer Connections. SI leaders are not required to provide class material from the past and answer extensive questions on class material via email.

7. When do SI leaders begin facilitating SI sessions?

SI sessions start in the first few weeks of the semester. SI leaders announce the SI session schedule on the first day of class. SI leaders typically conduct 1-2 SI sessions per week.

8. How do I know if SI is offered for my course?

SI leaders introduce themselves on the first day of class. Throughout the first week of the semester, SI leaders announce information regarding their SI session days, times and location. Throughout the semester, SI leader and professor remind students of the SI session time and locations.

9. Does the professor attend the SI session?

No, the SI session is an instructor free environment. The main focus of the SI leader is to provide a safe place for students to learn with their peers. SI leaders may create activities, games and worksheets to help students grasp the information better. SI leader provides a fun, interactive and engaging environment to go over important topics covered in class. The professors are kept in the loop about SI session lesson preparation and how the SI sessions are going even though the professors do not attend the SI sessions. However, students' confidentiality and anonymity is kept.

10. How much does it cost to attend an SI session?

SI sessions are free to all SJSU students! You should be ready to learn, that is it. The more SI sessions the students attend, the better prepared they are for the quizzes and exams.





11. What is expected from students who attend SI sessions?

Students are expected to come prepared to study with peers and recommended to bring questions from the material covered in class. In addition, students should bring their notes, handouts, textbooks and quizzes to SI sessions as the SI leader may refer to them. Even though the SI leaders do not go over the homework problems/assignments in the SI session, they offer enough support so that students are able to do them. Students should regularly attend class lectures because SI is a supplemental support to the course. Therefore, students should attend both lectures and SI sessions.

12. What if students cannot attend SI sessions?

If students cannot attend SI sessions, SI leaders can help them navigate other resources at Peer Connections such as drop-in and appointment-based tutoring services. Additionally, reach out to the students who attend the SI sessions. Perhaps study with the students who regularly attend the sessions and catch up on the material that you may have missed during the sessions. Students are also encouraged to attend the professor's office hours.

13. How can the students become SI Leaders for their course?

Ask your SI leaders about how you can become an SI leader for any course. In a summary, Peer Connections opens the application for peer educators towards the end of the semester. You can find the application at <https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> and learn about the positions and apply for the one that fits you.

If you have any further questions about the SI program, feel free to contact us:

Email: peerconnections@sjsu.edu

Phone number: 408-924-2587

Location: Student Services Center, SSC 600

