



# Supplemental Instruction: Peer-Facilitated Collaborative Learning

Tanu K. Altomare, MPH  
Coordinator, Supplemental Instruction  
Peer Tutor Coordinator, Center for Math & Statistics Support

[www.uhd.edu/si](http://www.uhd.edu/si)



## What is Supplemental Instruction?

### Supplemental Instruction (SI)

- Peer tutoring model
- Provides in-class and out-of-class support for high-challenge courses
- Facilitated by SI Leaders
  - UHD students
  - Attend assigned class
  - Conduct weekly SI group study sessions
- Shown to improve student performance and retention

### SI at the University of Houston-Downtown

- Founded in 2000 as part of a DOE Title V grant
- Several expansions
  - 2006 QEP – U.S. History, College Algebra, Composition II
  - 2011 THECB CSSP grant – General Biology I, General Chemistry I
  - 2016 THECB CRSM grant – Beginning and Intermediate Algebra





Fall 2016 SI Leader cohort.

### Characteristics

- Current UHD students
  - Taken and mastered the target course (B or higher)
  - Maintain minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
  - Demonstrate effective communication skills, professionalism, and integrity
- SI Leader graduation rate (FY13-FY17): **94%**

### SI Leader Training

- 2-day training focused on:
  - Role and responsibilities
  - Collaborative study techniques
  - Customer service
  - Public speaking and presentation skills
  - Team-building

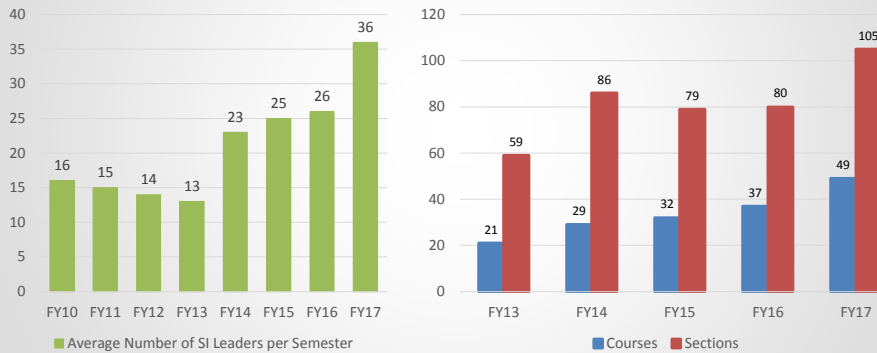


SI Leaders Esmeralda Martinez and Evelyn Valdez-Rangel present data on the SI Program at the Innovative Teaching and Learning Symposium (2016).

### Benefits to SI Leader

- Content mastery
- Opportunity to collaborate with peers and faculty
- Improved leadership and communication skills
- Research experience
- Convenient job located on campus
- Excellent resume reference

### Staffing Trends



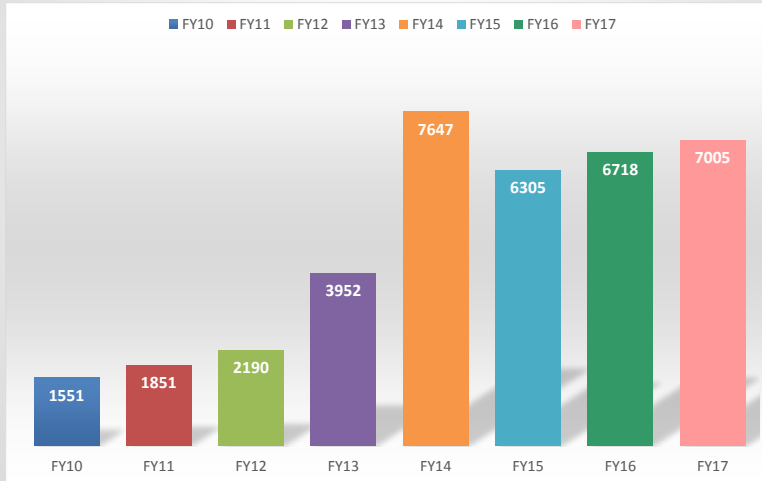
### SI Study Sessions

- Based on activities that encourage group learning
  - Sessions are tailored to a specific course section
  - Students review content or study for exams in small groups
  - SI Leaders do not re-lecture or give out answers
  
- SI Leaders:
  - Integrate content with learning strategies
  - Empower students to take control of their own learning
  - Encourage the formation of study groups outside of class and SI sessions

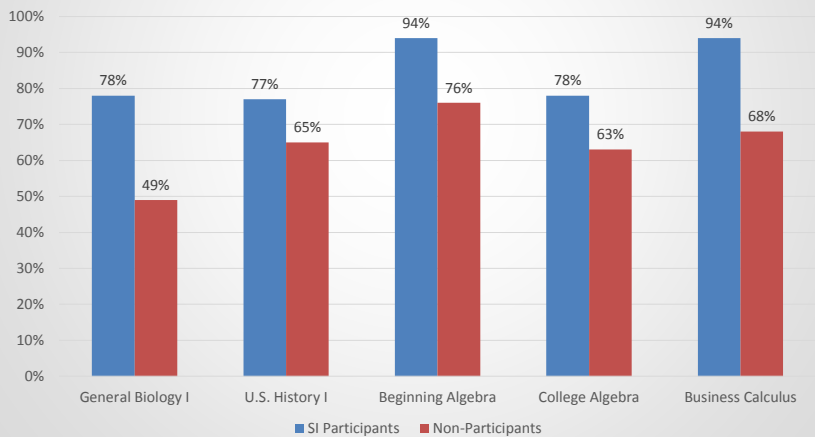


*History SI Leader Carlos Guajardo conducts an exam review using the collaborative review software Kahoot! (Spring 2017).*

**Student Participation – Total Visits**



**Letter Grades of A, B, or C for SI Participants vs. Non-Participants**



## UHD Supplemental Instruction Mission Statement

*The mission of the Supplemental Instruction Program at UHD is to improve student comprehension, content mastery, and critical thinking skills through collaborative, peer-facilitated group study sessions. Our goal is to improve the individual performance of undergraduate students **in order to create a positive impact on institutional retention and graduation rates.***

- Study of the effect of SI on grades and graduation of full-time college-ready FTIC students over 6 years (664 students in SI sections, 1120 students in non-SI sections)
  - The ABC rate was **10 percentage points higher** for the SI sections vs. the non-SI sections.
  - The mean class GPA was **0.34 points higher** for the SI sections vs. the non-SI sections.
  - The 6-year graduation rate was **7 percentage points higher** for students in the SI sections vs. students in the non-SI sections.



[www.uhd.edu/si](http://www.uhd.edu/si)