FACULTY FAQ

✳ Peer Tutoring ✳

What is peer tutoring?

• Peer tutoring is, perhaps, one of the most traditional form of academic support. In our model, students who have previously taken the course and received a B or better will work alongside students to help them interact more deeply with their ideas. It's important to note that tutors aren't there to provide answers—they're there to engage with questions and strategies.

What can and can't students get help with?

• The primary responsibility of our student staff is to guide students through exercises that emphasize and reinforce important concepts covered in class. They work with students to see what they currently understand and how to get them to the next stage of comprehension. This typically means that students receive support with readings, homework assignments, and project brainstorming.

• We are very mindful of academic misconduct, and so students should not expect staff to proof homework or assist with exams. In fact, they will need explicit permission from their professor to work on evaluative assignments like quizzes, tests, and exams.

I would like more support for students in my course—what do I do?

• First, thank you for your interest in our programs. We appreciate your support and would love to help where we can. With that said, we do have a few requests for the faculty we support.

• Our first request is that you are mindful of the limited resources in the department. While we would like to support every section of every course, the reality is that a number of factors force us to prioritize certain classes each semester. With that in mind, we do try to allocate support where it will have the biggest impact on student experience, and there's a good chance we'll be able to work something out.

• The next request is that you contact us before the semester begins. The Academic Tutoring department has a lot of moving parts, and it's incredibly difficult to begin support for a class in the middle of a semester. Instead, please contact us the semester before the one in which you would like support. For peer tutoring inquiries, please reach out to Laurie Toro (Laurie.Toro@uvu.edu); for questions about Supplemental Instruction, please contact Aubrey Ryan (Aubrey.Ryan@uvu.edu); for more general inquiries, don't hesitate to message Skyler Meeks (Skyler.Meeks@uvu.edu).

How are students selected to be peer tutors and Supplemental Instruction leaders?

• Each position has slightly different requirements, but generally speaking each position requires that students have previously taken the course and received a B or better. More often than not, our tutors exceed these qualifications. We also consider other materials like transcripts, professor recommendations, and tentative schedule when selecting our team.

I would love to help Academic Tutoring more—what can I do?

• We are always so appreciative of faculty and staff who are interested in helping us help students. One way of doing so is to help us improve the quality of our staff training program. Throughout the semester, we like to invite professors to hold workshops for our tutors and leaders as a way to hone the tutoring staff's skills. If you would be interested in working with our staff to improve their content knowledge, please reach out to our director, Skyler Meeks at Skyler.Meeks@uvu.edu.

Program Contacts

• If you have any questions about the Peer Tutoring program, feel free to contact Laurie Toro (Peer Tutoring Coordinator) at Laurie.Toro@uvu.edu.

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✳ Supplemental Instruction ✳

What is Supplemental Instruction (SI)?

• Supplemental Instruction targets historically difficult courses with high drop, fail, or withdraw rates.

• Rather than targeting specific demographics, SI is designed to support all students in the course, regardless of their academic performance.

• SI leaders are student employees that cover broad content and study skills rather than homework problems or specific questions. This helps the students become more proficient in their learning and encourages self sufficiency rather than simply passing a course.

Can I offer extra credit for attending SI sessions?

• We ask that faculty not provide extra credit for students who attend sessions. This is because we're working toward becoming internationally accredited and part of that process is submitting data that demonstrates how attending SI sessions can positively impact student grades. Giving extra credit to students who attend sessions interferes with the validity of that data and causes doubts about the SI leader's success. Offering extra credit can also encourage students to attend and not participate, which creates problems for the other students and the SI leader.

• As a work around, we suggest creating a mandatory assignment on Canvas for students to either attend an SI session or the tutoring lab at the beginning of the semester. This ensures that all students are able to complete the assignment whether or not they are available for SI sessions, and the students can choose to continue using either resource. This makes the student aware of their resources and how they can help, but doesn't interfere with grade data. We are more than willing to verify attendance for those that have attended

the required session. Tutoring verification can be obtained through the Peer Tutoring Coordinator, Laurie Toro (Laurie.Toro@uvu.edu).

*If you are a humanities faculty member, please contact us if you would like assistance finding a different arrangement for tutoring lab credit. There is no longer a humanities tutoring lab, so other options may be available.

How are SI leaders different than tutors?

• SI leaders cover broad content and study skills rather than homework problems or answering specific questions. This helps the students become more proficient in their learning and encourages self sufficiency rather than simply passing a course.

• SI leaders work with specific classes and faculty members in order to align with course content and faculty goals. They attend the lecture to keep up with content and connect personally with the students in that course. SI leaders are also added to Canvas sections to communicate with students regarding sessions, extra study resources, and to stay in tune with course updates.

• Based on student availability, SI leaders schedule 3-4 SI sessions each week. During sessions, the SI leader guides students through exercises that emphasize and reinforce important concepts covered in class. Sessions are inherently interactive, and students are encouraged to ask their peers questions and use outside resources (i.e. textbook, notes, credible online sources).

How can I request an SI leader for my class?

• Please contact the Supplemental Instruction Coordinator, Aubrey Ryan, a semester ahead to express interest. For example, if you're interested in having SI support for your class during a spring

semester, it's important that you tell us in the preceding fall semester so that arrangements can be made

• We deeply appreciate your recommendations during our hiring process. By providing us names of students you think would be good SI leaders, you help us find qualified and reliable applicants that are motivated to help students and collaborate with faculty.

What is required of faculty?

• Having an SI leader shouldn't create extra work for faculty members. All you would need to do to support the SI leader is give them opportunities to talk about their sessions during class and encourage your students to take advantage of SI as a free resource. This should only take a few minutes during the beginning of class.

• We also encourage our SI leaders to communicate with faculty to ensure they're correctly covering content that students struggle with, share issues that students have during sessions, and exchange any information that may help students.

Program Contacts

• If you have any questions about the SI program or if you'd like to request an SI leader to assist with your course, feel free to contact Aubrey Ryan (SI Coordinator) at Aubrey.Ryan@uvu.edu.

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