



RESEARCH BRIEF: SLA FINAL EVALUATIONS SPRING 2012

Overview: In spring of 2012, the Crafton Hills College (CHC) Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) Program coordinators in collaboration with the Office of Research and Planning (ORP) administered an online evaluation to assess and improve this institutional support service. The purpose of this brief is to summarize the findings from participants who completed an evaluation at the end of the semester.

Summary of Findings:

- Overall, whiteboard work (mean = 3.49) reviewing questions from lecture and practice quizzes/tests (mean = 3.40) were rated as the most helpful learning activities used by Tutors in SLA workshops.
- Respondents cited reviewing material covered in lectures and spending additional time going over missed homework or test questions in SLA sessions as helpful methods for learning the course materials.
- Respondents agreed that the tutor's encouraged active participation in the SLA sessions (mean = 3.46).
- Respondents were less likely to agree the SLA sessions helped (mean=3.06).

Methodology: All students enrolled in a Learning Resources Laboratory (LRC-900X4) course linked to a Prealgebra (MATH-952) section at CHC in spring of 2012 were given access to the evaluations via an online link provided by their tutor. There were 68 students evaluating five tutors leading labs associated with five sections who responded to the survey. Table 1 illustrates the number and percent of responses for each tutor.

Table 1: Number and Percent of Responses by Tutor

Tutor	N	%
Daniel Bickel	22	32.4
Domingo Cuellar	18	26.5
Angelina Alvidrez	7	10.3
Breanna Grisham / David Williams	16	23.5
Robert Brown	3	4.4
Missing	2	2.9
Total	68	100.0

The evaluation explored the following four themes:

- Session Learning Activities
- Tutor Approach
- Student Satisfaction
- Suggestions for Improvement

Referring to Tables 2 and 3; the first column lists the statements, the second column (i.e. "N") shows the number of students who responded to the item, the column entitled "Min" shows the lowest response on the scale, the column entitled "Max" shows the highest response on the scale, the column "Mean" shows the average rating, and the last column shows the standard deviation. Responses to questions related to session activities were recorded on a four-point scale (4= Very Helpful, 3= Helpful, 2= Not

Helpful, 1= Not at All Helpful) in addition to a “Did Not Use” choice. Responses related to session components, tutor approach, and student satisfaction were recorded on a four-point scale (4= Strongly Agree, 3= Agree, 2= Disagree, 1= Strongly Disagree). Tables are arranged by Mean score in descending order and exclude “Did Not Use” responses.

Next, there were four open- ended questions asking respondents how the sessions have been helpful, have contributed to student understanding of course materials, recommendations for improving future SLA sessions, and any additional comments, suggestions, or feedback about the SLA program.

Findings: As illustrated in Table 2, on average, students rated all learning activities used in SLA sessions as helpful. Specifically, the majority of respondents indicated that whiteboard work was beneficial (mean=3.49). On the other hand, students were less likely to consider learning to apply study strategies helpful (mean=3.22).

Table 2: SLA Learning Activities

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Whiteboard work	65	1	4	3.49	.640
Reviewing questions from lecture	65	1	4	3.40	.725
Practice quizzes/tests	65	1	4	3.40	.703
Verbal (Oral) practice	64	1	4	3.33	.757
Individual activity/working alone	65	1	4	3.28	.696
Group activities	64	1	4	3.25	.797
Using flash cards	60	1	4	3.23	.789
Learning to apply study strategies	63	1	4	3.22	.750

In an open-ended format, respondents were asked to indicate which learning activities they considered useful. Overall, the students felt that reviewing material covered in lecture, homework, and missed test questions were useful activities. The following is a complete list of responses:

- Broke down problems step-by-step.
- Games
- Go over homework question or go over the test on the questions you got wrong on the test before
- Going over questions for the lecture or questions from tests I thought was helpful.
- Going over things in class that we learned already
- Handouts and review problems
- It helped me review for a test
- Mini flash cards and other practice. practice test like test corrections
- [Name] was wonderful, and oh so helpful.
- One helpful learning activity is one on one
- Playing games
- Pretty much we did use all of them but the only activity I didn't like was individual activity.
- The idea is good, but having an instructor that has virtually no communication skill and little people skills makes it very difficult to sit in on even one of the classes. Thankfully this was just a review class for me and I was exempt from most of it. However, the parts where I was

required to be present were intolerable. I later used my absences strategically to avoid the class altogether.

- Used a poker game to try and help, but was not helpful. I feel that he tried to do the best he could for us, but his people skills failed him.
- Worksheets were great! [Name] gave us group time as well as one on one time.

Respondents agreed that the tutor's encouraged active participation in the SLA sessions (mean = 3.46) and that the tutor used a variety of learning activities in SLA sessions (mean = 3.30). However, students were less likely to agree that their participation in SLA sessions will result in a higher course grade (mean=3.06).

Table 3: Tutor Approach and Student Satisfaction

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
The tutor encouraged me to actively participate in SLA sessions	67	2	4	3.46	.611
The tutor used a variety of learning activities in SLA sessions	66	1	4	3.30	.679
The material covered during SLA sessions was relevant	66	2	4	3.23	.740
The SLA sessions were organized efficiently	67	1	4	3.22	.714
The SLA sessions that I attended this semester were useful in helping me better understand the course material	68	1	4	3.12	.744
Because of my participation in SLA sessions, I will receive a higher grade in my course	66	1	4	3.06	.857

Finally, respondents were asked in an open-ended format how the SLA sessions have helped them in their course, contributed to their understanding of instructor's lectures, suggestions for improving future SLA sessions, and to leave any additional comments or suggestions which will help SLA tutors better assist students.

How have the SLA sessions helped you in your course? (Please provide examples)

- Extra time to get to know the material better.
- Didn't do much for me I was exempt from the class due to my test scores
- do better on tests
- Extra practice
- He needs to relate more to the class work then making us play games that were useless
- He provide me with extra worksheet
- Helped me exceed in the things that I've learned
- Helped practice for tests and everything and help get better at the course and understand it a lot more.
- I attended the ones in the beginning of the semester with [Name]. After that Praise the Lord I did not have to stay! However, I heard from my classmates that [Name] was good tutor.
- I don't really think it made a difference
- I get a better understanding in the course.
- I was able to work on some homework during SLA allowing me the opportunity to ask questions relating to my homework, if needed.
- If I had questions with problems I had, she was there to help me understand
- It didn't help very much, and I didn't need to stay.

- It gave me a chance to go over the stuff again
- It gave me the chance to study more and get more work done.
- It gave me time to do my homework and ask questions that confused me
- It help me get out of it by getting higher scores
- It helps to prepare for the test.
- It helped because it made me practice every night
- It helped me by asking questions to any problems that I had. He attended to me and helped me out step by step.
- It helped me by have a better understanding in the course and gave me some helpful study skills.
- It helped me by understanding the material before a test.
- It helped me get my homework done on time. and if I had any questions with anything that couldn't be answered during class I was able to ask during SLA
- It helped me out a lot in my course with remembering what I had learned in class
- It helped me review what I did not know in lecture.
- It helped me to get better and how it helped me
- It helped me to have a better understanding in my math class
- It helped me understand where I went wrong on my tests. [Name] went over tests and quizzes after they were returned to us. It helped me understand what I did wrong on certain problems.
- It helped me by showing me how to take good notes and able to study right
- It helped to ask the questions I didn't understand in class
- It helps me go over the work we needed to know and the flash card game worked the best for me.
- It was not too helpful I would have hoped he gave us more homework days and after test actually go (over) it not stump your partner.
- Just get more review for test or quizzes.
- Participate
- Practice makes perfect
- reminded me of how the work needed to be done
- She offered help and instruction on homework and reviewed quizzes.
- SLA helped better understand the material covered in classes. Especially when i missed a class and I needed help to understand what I missed. [Name] really sat down and explained to me how to solve square roots when I didn't learn it in my class.
- Stomp your partner helped me make up problems and that showed I could do it.
- The practice tests were the most helpful to me.
- They did not!
- They gave other options to figuring out problems that I wouldn't have come up with on my own
- They helped other students but I did not attend many so I don't know
- This class helped me by being explained a little more in detail.
- Tutoring helps me a lot specially problems that I could not understand. She immediately responded to my questions.
- Whenever I didn't understand something in math class SLA helped me to better understand it.
- With the extra stuff [Name] would print out.

Explain how attending SLA sessions has contributed to your understanding of your professor's lectures.

- A follow up on what the teacher just taught.
- Any unanswered questions I had I got an opportunity to ask and get clarified
- Better clarification
- By reviewing testes
- Classwork and homework was broken down more and I was able to get any additional help I may have needed.
- Did not attend
- Extra help.
- Gave me a chance to practice on what was done in lecture.
- Having assignments in the class the challenged us in ways the professors did not do was very helpful. The professor usually goes over what the book says, but [Name] helped us with steps.
- He could have expanded a little more. Not just giving us worksheets and expect us to understand.
- He should work on reinforcing the lessons learned from the professor's lectures. Sometimes he would go off task with this.
- He went over a lot of the material as the professor did.
- He went over what the instructor taught us in the class
- I didn't see that it helped me anymore. I know the more you see things you will understand it better but I feel that when we would do lecture with the teacher she covered everything and made sure we didn't leave not understanding. I think there are people out there though that could benefit from SLA.
- I liked reviewing the lectures in SLA that I learned in my course because it made it easy to go over again.
- If I had a question about something, and I wasn't able to ask the professor, I could then ask the tutor. Also, the added explanation on certain materials was useful.
- In no way.
- It contributed to the lectures by explaining the chapters a little bit more
- It contributed to understand the lectures pretty good
- It contributed with the SLA instructors showing different methods to different problems
- It extends explanations to problem given to us in our lectures.
- It gave me a more in depth feel of the class
- It help me understand the lecture better by going over problems I didn't know
- It helps me, because there were ways of breaking an equation that I didn't know before.
- It helped because we would go over the work we just did to better understand it.
- It helped me pay attention in class and how to take notes
- It helped me understand everything my professor was teaching it was good
- It helped to reiterate what the professor lectured about by allowing us the additional time to work on problems in the classroom.
- It reviewed the lessons we learned in class and went over it step by step
- More in depth, more examples
- [Name] had a different way of explaining the things that was learned in the class
- Quoted the professor from the previous lectures
- same info
- She helped explain problems in other ways to help be better understand them.

- She went over what my instructor had already lectured on which helped with my memory and understanding.
- SLA gave more examples and help on what we learned in lecture.
- Somewhat
- The study guides helped
- The work we would go over would tie in with the work we did in class.
- They didn't because he tried to be his own teacher and he always gave us work that didn't relate to the class
- Understand the material better
- We would review thing that were said in lecture
- Well I had a good grade so I never had to really go
- When I went, [Name] (talked) more about his personal live and very little about the material.
- When sometimes I can't get how it was solved, tutoring is right there for an additional explanation and or solution.

What suggestions do you have for improving future SLA sessions?

- Be able to work on homework for part of the time in class that way you have someone there to help you if you need it. I strongly think that they should ass that to part of SLA. I think I would have gone more if we were able to.
- better training for the tutors
- David-stick to the relevant topics during the beginning of the semester and not focusing on getting to know us or telling us how cool our teachers methods of teaching are.
- Do direct review of previous class lecture.
- Do more examples of the stuff that happened in lecture and to help with homework.
- Go over more questions in class on the lecture.
- go over test question and homework questions as a class
- Have extra tutors for those that do not have a fully grasp on the subject.
- have it on the same day as the math class it will get people to actually come
- Have the SLA sessions on the same day.
- he needs to relate more to what we are doing in class instead of useless games
- I don't think it should, its fine the way it is.
- I sat in front of two girls who were very loud about their personal lives with their vulgar language making it difficult to concentrate or hear instructions, so it would be an improvement to have people like that leave the classroom if they can't be respectful.
- I suggest going over homework problems or assisting us on doing our homework for questions and concerns we might have about it
- I think it should focus more on individual work. For students to have more time doing test corrections and homework, and having the person there for tutor support.
- I think we should go over material we did in class
- I wish the SLA sessions were for homework. I feel like they should've covered the homework and questions that we had from the session prior. It's hard to move onto the next subject when you cannot understand things from the session prior!
- I would like to add one more to improve the future SLA sessions that whenever there is exercises of assignment she should put a notation and solution.
- Improvements in work. Add more handouts rather than lectures would help out more.
- Just to keep doing what they are doing.

- Just to make the sessions longer in the future
- Listening and understanding better.
- make it longer or be able to go to the tutoring center with the actual SLA math tutor
- Make it mandatory.
- More activities based on what we learned in the morning sessions.
- more activities that give the students interest
- More group activities, handouts with more homework and more whiteboard work.
- more interaction
- More time in the class so we can have more one on one time with the tutor.
- My suggestion is to have SLA to not be mandatory. That way for students that don't need help and are doing fine in the course than they should not have to go.
- None / Nothing (4)
- Not have the class so late
- Not so long of a SLA.
- Not to have rude tutors
- Nothing it was great when I came.
- Offer it every semester for more classes, not just math.
- Shorter, about 30 minutes and the instructor should go over homework and test reviews
- Shouldn't hold again your grade id you can't make class
- That they not be mandatory
- The times for the SLA sessions are a little in convenient. I would suggest having them right after the regular class if possible. The SLA sessions are only fifty minutes, but because they are at such random times, the sessions make it inconvenient for trying to schedule other classes.
- To be more patient with us students.
- To become better

Please provide any additional comments, suggestions and/or feedback that will help our SLA tutors better assist you with your coursework.

- Be more patient with students, talk with calmness and positivity, people are attracted by that more
- Daniel was a great and patient SLA tutor
- Employ more tutors like [Name]. Math majors tend to not know how to explain math in ways that "non-math people" understand. Having someone who just enjoys math, but isn't necessarily a "math person" makes for a better tutor.
- Good at explain when he understands the question.. Just be patient
- Good tutor overall.
- have a little more patients with people
- I believe that the tutors are doing a great job and I have no further comments on what to improve.
- I found my productivity decreasing on days when I had SLA because i had to get my car and drive down here to do work that I was already doing at home.
- I had a fun and learning experience in SLA.
- I strongly suggest that homework we have should be done during SLA so that we can raise questions and have them answered. There are times I have questions with homework at home and when I get to class I forget.
- I think he did a great job and should stick to everything he has been doing.

- I think more students should come more often because it really does help a lot.
- just keep helping those in need of it that need the help to understand and focus in their class
- Just put notation or remark not only that she made or put check on it.
- No further comments.
- Personal appearance has much to do with respect. Wearing two t-shirts that are worn out and too small makes it hard to respect him as the instructor. An instructor that has had perhaps a little life experience and a far more commanding personality. A sheepish attitude in a room of, mostly, recently graduated high school students is a great way to be eaten alive. I know he cannot change their attitude, but he can prevent them from disrespecting him. Age and experience play a huge role in this.
- Same as #6. I think that putting the students into teams and having one member from each team at a time work out various problems on the board and competing to finish first would be fun. Thank you for all of the help!
- SLA needs to be an option for students
- Talk to him and tell him he needs to have class related assignments and not assignments off subject and/or useless games.
- The SLA was very helpful.
- this was a good thing to have I only wish I went more so i could have gotten more help
- Try to stay in sync with class schedule, ask students if they are having any trouble with that day's lesson and help them accordingly! Practice tests were a huge help and pretty much saved me!
Thanks!