



Fall 2014 HSI Title III STEM Supplemental Instruction Program Evaluations

Prepared by Cyndi Gundersen

Purpose of Brief

This brief analyzes the results of the Fall 2014 HSI Title III STEM supplemental instruction program evaluations.

Summary of Findings

- The overall response rate of the STEM SI evaluation survey was 68%.
- 79% of the respondents stated that they attended an SI session.
- Students who did not attend an SI session, provided the following reasons for not attending, time conflicts (10), lack of interest (2), other obligations (2).
- 96% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the SI leader explained SI in class and understood what he/she meant.
- 96% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the SI leader created a supportive environment.
- Respondents provided 22 additional comments and suggestions. 15 responses praised the SI program or the SI leader, 4 provided suggestions for improvement, and 3 suggested having additional time offerings.

Overview

In an effort to improve students' math, technical and conceptual science skills as a part of the HSI Title III STEM Grant, Crafton Hills College (CHC) developed a supplemental instruction (SI) program as an alternative learning strategy. In the Fall 2014 term, CHC offered supplemental instruction for students enrolled in the following course sections: GEOL-101-25, GEOL-100-25, MATH-103-90, MICRO-102-05, MICRO-102-07, MICRO-102-25, MICRO-102-26, and PHYSIC-250-25. Surveys were provided to students enrolled in these sections to evaluate the SI program.

Table 1 illustrates the response rate for each section where '# ' is the number of responses, 'N' is the number of students earning a grade on record (GOR¹) in the section, and '%' is the number of responses divided by the total number of students earning a GOR in the section. The overall response rate of the STEM SI evaluation survey was 68.3%.

Table 1: Response rate for STEM SI evaluations.

Term	Course Section	#	N	%
Fall 2014	GEOL-101-25	3	10	30.0
	GEOL-100-25	11	12	91.7
	MATH-103-90	13	24	54.2
	MICRO-102-05	7	11	63.6
	MICRO-102-06	7	7	100
	MICRO-102-25	7	11	63.6
	MICRO-102-26	8	21	72.7
	PHYSIC-250-25	15	18	83.3
	TOTAL	71	104	68.3

Methodology

In conjunction with the STEM Alternative Learning Strategies Coordinator, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning developed a one-page paper survey to measure students' perceptions of the SI program. Respondents were asked whether they attended any SI sessions along with a follow-up open-ended question if they did not attend any sessions. Respondents were then presented with a series of Likert-scale questions to measure their level of agreement with statements regarding various program components. Responses were ranked where Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Disagree = 3, Strongly Disagree = 2, and Not Applicable = 1. Lastly, respondents were presented with a final open-ended question for any additional comments.

¹ GOR is a grade earned in the course of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, or W

Findings

Seventy-nine percent of respondents stated they had attended an SI session. (See table 2)

Table 2: Number and Percent of Respondents who attended an SI session.

Response	#	%
Attended	56	78.9
Did not attend	15	21.1
Total	71	100

When asked why they chose not to attend an SI session, respondents provided various reasons related to time conflicts (n = 10), a lack of interest (n = 2), and other obligations (n = 2). Representative examples of responses are provided below:

Please explain why you did not attend an SI session, and if anything could be done to persuade you to do so:

Time conflicts

- Difficult with work schedule.
- I never had the time.
- I would have liked to go but my work and class schedule would not allow me to make the sessions.
- I was only on campus two days a week and had too much on my plate to find time during the sessions to attend.
- I didn't have time to attend.
- The schedule of the SI meetings didn't fit my schedule.

Lack of interest

- I never feel the need.
- I am superior to my classmates.

Other Obligations

- I have 3 small kids at home and don't have extra time outside of class.
- Mostly busy with family.

Table 3 illustrates respondents' levels of agreement with statements regarding various components of the SI program. Ninety-six percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the SI leader explained SI in class and understood what he/she meant. They also agreed that the SI leader created a supportive environment. Over 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with 7 other statements. Respondents were least likely to agree with that the SI leader answered questions effectively by re-directing them to the students (84%).

Table 3: Respondents' levels of agreement with statements regarding various SI program components

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The SI leader explained SI in class and I understood what he/she meant	32	54.2	25	42.2	0	0.0	2	3.4
The SI leader attends class regularly	31	51.7	26	43.3	1	1.7	2	3.3
The SI leader answered questions effectively by re-directing them to the students	27	46.6	22	37.9	6	10.3	3	5.2
The SI leader was knowledgeable about the course material	32	52.5	26	42.6	1	1.6	2	3.3
The SI leader was well-organized	32	52.5	23	37.7	4	6.6	2	3.3
The SI leader provided helpful learning/studying strategies	33	55.9	22	37.3	2	3.4	2	3.4
The SI leader created a supportive environment	35	62.5	19	33.9	0	0	2	3.6
The SI sessions helped me do well on the tests.	26	48.1	21	38.9	4	7.4	3	5.6
I would attend SI sessions for other courses	27	46.6	25	43.1	2	3.4	4	6.9
The SI sessions were very helpful for learning the course content	31	55.4	21	37.5	1	1.8	3	5.4

Note: Responses of "Not Applicable" have been excluded.

Respondents provided 22 additional comments and suggestions. 15 responses praised the SI program or the SI leader, 4 provided suggestions for improvement, and 3 suggested having additional time offerings. Representative examples of responses are provided below:

If you have any other comments or suggestions regarding SI, state them here:

Praise

- I think it's a great study tool.
- Keep it going! Very informative and helpful.
- Thank you for SI! It was a great help. I wish I had it for my other classes.
- The SI leader was very helpful on going over material prepping the students for exams.

Suggestions for improvement

- It seemed like there was a slight disconnect in communication between professor and SI leader.
- This was a special circumstance class. Remember the next classes will have it easier due to consistency.

Additional time offerings

- Maybe offer a longer SI meeting.
- I wish there would have been more times to go available.