

# SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION NOT YOUR AVERAGE STUDY GROUP





## **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION— NOT YOUR AVERAGE STUDY GROUP**

Help is here for students in traditionally difficult courses. The University of Mississippi has started an academic assistance program called Supplemental Instruction (SI). For the 2010–11 pilot of this program, the courses supported by SI are BISC 160 and 161 (biology survey for science majors and pre-med students), certain sections of CHEM 105 and 106 (chemistry survey for science majors and pre-med students), and certain sections of ACCY 201 and 202 (Introduction to Accounting Principles I and II).

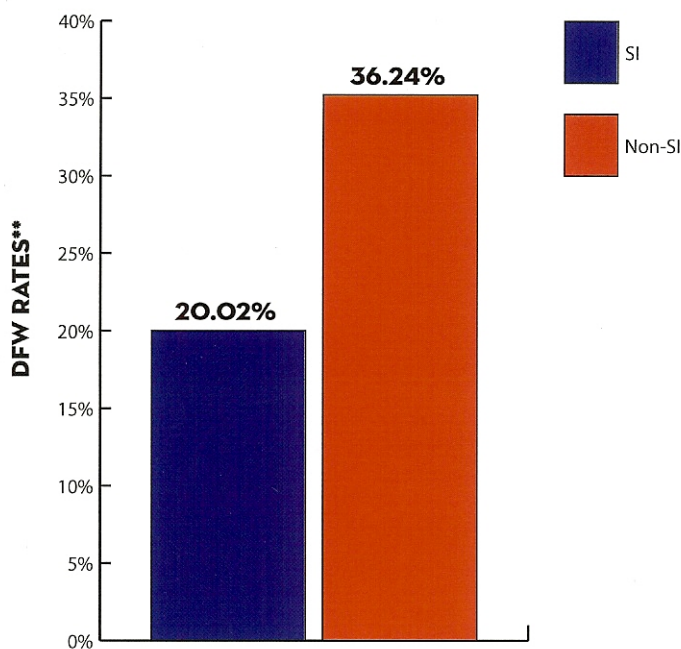
SI provides students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the course content. During SI sessions, which are voluntary and informal, students gather in groups of five to eight to compare notes, solve problems, discuss readings, develop study skills and prepare for tests.

### **PEER-LED DISCUSSIONS**

With SI, students enjoy the informality of a study group combined with the guidance of an expert. SI sessions are led by an upper-class student who recently earned a high grade in the course. These SI leaders receive training in teaching/learning strategies and are in regular contact with the course instructor. They attend the class lectures so they know how the material is presented in class. They don't do the work for the students or simply give them the answers; they facilitate discussion and problem solving, plan collaborative learning activities and allow students to formulate and answer their own questions. The SI leader creates highly efficient and effective study groups for students to actively engage in understanding difficult course material.

## RESULTS

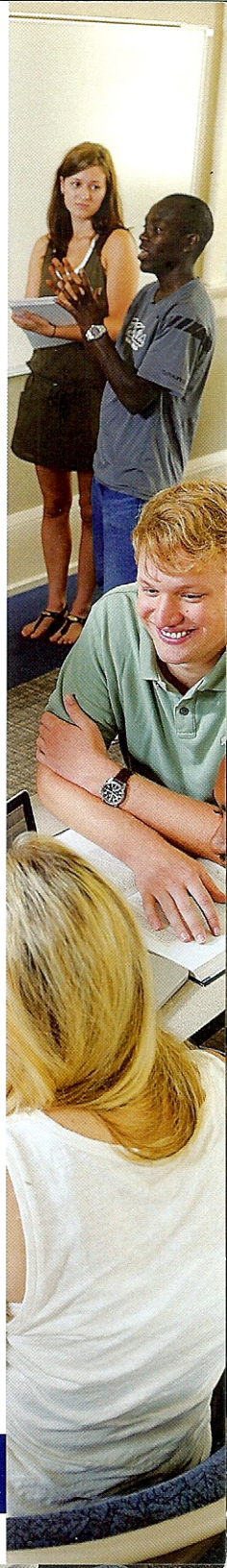
Students who participate regularly in SI sessions earn higher final course grades and withdraw less often than non-SI participants. The data below on SI effectiveness are from a study of 37 institutions using SI, conducted by the International Center for SI at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



### FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

\* All differences are statistically significant at the .001 level.

\*\* Percentage of students who earned a course grade of D, F or withdrew from the course.



## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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