

# New tutoring program aims to offer flexible help with general education

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Supplemental Instruction provides tutors who have taken a general for those currently enrolled in one.

Need extra help with any of your general education courses here at Utah Valley University? Or maybe, you are one of many students looking to find employment here on campus. If so, you're now in luck.

Recently, UVU's Academic Tutoring Center announced a new peer-tutoring program called Supplemental Instruction, better known as "SI." SI is designed to heighten and bolster overall academic performance and to increase student engagement in challenging course subjects.

We all know that students seeking an associate or bachelor's degree here must complete the general education requirements to better ensure that students graduate with the skills and knowledge in a variety of academic disciplines. Unfortunately, sometimes students struggle with general education courses – especially when taking classes outside of a chosen major. Fortunately, this is where SI comes into the picture. Instead of going down to the tutoring lab, students now have more flexibility

to choose where they want to meet on campus to receive additional help outside of class through student peer instructors.

SI instructors can be found inside most general education classes. Typically, SI instructors will make announcements either before or after class asking if students would like additional help. SI instructors will give out their contact information for students who ask them directly. If you haven't been introduced to your class SI instructor, check out one of SI's social media platforms to locate your class SI instructor (you can follow them on Twitter: @UVU\_SI).

SI instructors have previously taken a general course and are hired to act as a tutor while retaking the class. He or she will then be equipped to make personal connections and aid fellow students in need of additional help. If you're a model student that has a deep interest in the subject matter and are willing to take notes while attending all class lectures, more information on becoming an SI instructor can be obtained by contacting Academic Tutoring services at <http://www.uvu.edu/academictutoring/>.

SI's hopes to increase the number of students enrolled in difficult courses and improve the school's overall

graduation rates. UVU is one of only two universities in the country that has implemented the new and dynamic way of peer tutoring. According to the Academic Tutoring Center, students who have used academic tutoring services on campus were 50 percent less likely to end up withdrawing, and 75 percent of physics students who used Academic Tutoring earned either an A or B. On average, students who attended course reviews for BIOL 1010 scored 25 percent higher than those who didn't. SI is intended to help continue to bolster these results.

SI instruction teaches anything from chemistry, physics, biology, writing and math. If you're interested and would like more information, the program's Facebook page can be found by searching for "UVU Supplemental Instruction".

As students, we all hate that feeling when we are lost with the course material and not quite getting it. And sometimes, we just need a little extra help. If that is you, perhaps SI can help you to turn your college years into a positive learning experience. •