

# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

August 2, 2005

## **Report on Supplemental Instruction (SI) for 2004-2005**

### **Supported Courses:**

The Supplemental Instruction program supported all sections (x3) of BIOL1010 in Fall 2004. Tom Doser returned as the SI Leader and the Academic Services office in Student Educational Opportunity provided administrative support, training, and oversight for the program.

SI supported BIOL1000 and CHEM1020 for Spring 2005; however, SI attendance was very low and data is not presented for spring semester. It has not been determined why participation was low in the spring semester. The program had all the components of a successful program including an experienced and popular SI Leader, strong cooperation and planning between the faculty and the SI Leader, and the support of the faculty and TAs in terms of recommending that students attend SI sessions and "advertising" the availability of sessions. For BIOL1000, the faculty and SI Leader cooperated in surveying the class and rearranging the SI session schedule based on student schedules in order to increase attendance, but participation remained low.

### **Format:**

The SI Leader attended nine hours of lecture per week for three sections of BIOL1010 and worked on session prep and development of study materials two to three hours per week for the combined sections. Review Sessions for students were held six hours per week with two hours per week dedicated to each section. Given past experience regarding attendance patterns, all SI Review sessions for Fall 2004 were scheduled in the early evening between 5 and 7 pm.

### **Dissemination of Program Information:**

Information and updates on the nature and availability of Supplemental Instruction is disseminated to a number of staff on campus including those serving students in Student Success Services, the Center for Advising and Career Services, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Athletics Advising, Resident Assistants and Peer Advisors in Residence Life and Dining, Student Learning Center tutors, and Biology instructors and TAs. Flyers promoting the availability of SI have been placed in all of the above offices and have been posted on campus and made available in the Student Learning Center. Information on the SI program is also included in the SEO Academic Services brochure which promotes free academic services on campus.

### **Funding:**

Funding for Supplemental Instruction was provided by Arts & Sciences and the LeaRN project. A&S contributed an initial \$4,000 and LeaRN contributed \$950 to cover the anticipated shortfall for the year.

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## Evaluation:

The SI program supported three sections of BIOL1010 with an enrollment of 634 students. The "DWF rate" for the course was 41%.

- a. Final SI data shows that 107 individual students attended two or more review sessions with contact time at 507 hours for all students. Students who attended two or more sessions had an average final grade of 76% and students who attended one or no sessions averaged 63% as a final grade. For all students combined, there is a significant, positive correlation ( $r=.17$ ,  $p<.01$ ) between the number of sessions attended and final grade. The same holds true for the correlation between students who attended two or more sessions and final grade ( $r=.18$ ,  $p<.05$ ). As has been found in most semesters, it appears that attendance and level of participation in SI can contribute 8-12 points to a student's final grade.
- b. As in past years and in order to address the possibility that only "good" students are making use of SI services, we accessed data on students' ACT scores as reported when applying for entry to UW ( $n=554$ ). For all students in BIOL1010, the average ACT score was  $22.6 \pm 3.9$  and for SI participants the average ACT score was  $23.3 \pm 3.4$ . Average scores are at the 65<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively. Given this data, it appears (as has been found previously) that a student's academic ability on entering college is not significant in predicting whether or not they will take advantage of the availability of SI sessions.