

Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) Program Summary

What is the SLA Program?

Established in the fall of 1993, The Structured Learning Assistance Program offers all students the opportunity to improve their study and learning skills in specific courses and encourages collaborative learning. The program provides two to three hours of guided study workshops each week. These workshops are in addition to the regular class sessions. Enrollment in SLA courses is voluntary; but, once enrolled, if a student's grade falls below a 2.0, attendance at workshops is mandatory until the cumulative grade point improves to a minimum of 2.0. All students are required to attend the first two workshops. The professor's first assessment determines if continued attendance is required or voluntary.

The workshop facilitator provides specific background information related to the course and assists students in making connections to class lectures. Workshops stress learning the course content and developing effective study methods. SLA facilitators have contact with approximately 10-15% of the total enrolled Ferris student population per semester.

The program also serves as a mechanism for giving professors regular feedback on their teaching. This feedback is provided by the facilitator who manages the workshop and who attends each class session. This feedback allows the professor to make adjustments or re-emphasize information that students are struggling with collectively.

SLA targets courses, not any specific student population. There is no fee for this program. 

Program Facts:

- The number of courses offering SLA workshops in the 2004-5 academic year was 48 and this is **253% greater** than it was ten years ago in the 1994-5 academic year with only 19 courses.
- **2593 students** were enrolled in courses with SLA workshops in the 2004-5 academic year. This is 3% greater than the 11-year composite average number of students enrolled in SLA workshops each year, which is 2526 students.
- Total SLA student enrollment has **increased 486%** since the 1994-5 academic year which had only 534 students participating in SLA.
- Over the past 8 years, an average of 31 faculty members voluntarily participates in SLA each semester during the main academic year.
- When the same faculty member teaches both an SLA section and a Non-SLA section in the same semester, an **11-year average of 10.7% more students pass** with a "C-" or higher in the SLA sections than in the Non-SLA course sections.
- In the 2004-5 academic year, **81.7%** of the SLA students received course grades that were a "C-" or higher (78% Non-SLA Departmental Average for the same year).
- In the 2004-5 academic year, **only 3.7%** of the SLA students received failing grades and **only 7.6%** of the students withdrew from courses with SLA workshops.
- On average, over **89%** of students enrolled in SLA sections over the past four years recommend this program and would enroll in it again.

Structured Learning Assistance Program

(Year End Summary: Summer 2004 - Winter 2005)

SLA Summary Information:					
Semester	# of SLA Faculty	# of SLA Facilitators	# of Students Enrolled in SLA Course Sections	# of Courses with SLA Workshops	# of Sections with SLA Workshops
Summer 2004	2	2	60	2	4
Fall 2004	27	27	1377	26	67
Winter 2005	25	26	1156	20	57
TOTAL	54	55	2593	48	128

- The number of faculty remained the same as the previous (2003-04) academic year while the number of SLA facilitators increased by five people and the number of students enrolled in SLA course sections decreased by 8%.
- There were **three more SLA course sections offered this year than the previous year** despite an 8% reduction in SLA courses.
- This academic year averaged 20 students per SLA workshop as compared to 23 for the previous academic year.

SLA Courses Offered By College:							
Semester	Allied Health	Arts & Sciences	Business	Education	Pharmacy	Technology	University College
Summer 2004	DHYG218 NURS116	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fall 2004	DHYG111 DHYG218 MRIS103 MRIS211 NUCM120 NURS105 NURS226 RADI121 *SONO101	CHEM103 CHEM114 CHEM121 CHEM231 MATH010 MATH110 MATH115 MATH116 SOCY121	ACCT201 ACCT202 BLAW321 ECON221 FINC322 RFIM115	0	0	EEET114 MECH340	0
Winter 2005	DHYG121 MRIS204 NURS105 NURS116 NURS236 RADI111	CHEM103 CHEM121 CHEM122 MATH010 MATH110 MATH115 MATH116 PHYS211 SOCY121	ACCT201 ACCT202 BLAW321 ECON221 FINC322	0	0	EEET124	0
TOTAL	17	18	11	0	0	3	0

*Course offering a workshop for the first time.

- The College of Allied Health decreased in their overall number of workshops by two as a result of removing two RESP, removing one MRIS, and adding one SONO SLA course offering.
- The College of Business and University College both reduced by one SLA course offering each, STQM260 and READ106.
- The College of Arts & Sciences increased by one more course offering of MATH116.

SLA Student Success Information:				
Semester	# (%) of SLA Student Withdrawals	# (%) of SLA Student Failures	# of Graded SLA Students who Passed w/ C- or Higher	% of Graded SLA Students who Passed w/ C- or Higher
Summer 2004	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	58 (of 60)	96.7%
Fall 2004	94 (6.8%)	49 (3.6%)	1063 (of 1377)	77.2%
Winter 2005	103 (8.9%)	47 (4.1%)	870 (of 1009)	86.2%
TOTAL	198 (7.6%)	96 (3.7%)	1991 (2446)	81.7% (weighted average)

- Fall 2004 student failures reduced by 1.3% when compared to Fall 2003.