

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 2005-6 academic year was 43 and this is **226% greater** than it was eleven years ago in the 1994-5 academic year with only 19 courses.
- **2532 students** were enrolled in courses with SLA workshops in the 2005-6 academic year. The 12-year composite number of students enrolled in SLA workshops each year averages 2526 students.
- Total SLA student enrollment has **increased 474%** since the 1994-5 academic year which had only 534 students participating in SLA.
- Over the past 9 years, an average of 30 to 31 faculty members has voluntarily participated 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 (*known as a "control" section*), an **12-year average of 11.3% more students pass** with a "C-" or higher in the SLA sections than in the Non-SLA control course sections.
- In the 2005-6 academic year, **84.7%** of the SLA students received course grades that were a "C-" or higher (70% average for control sections during the same year). For this semester **14.7%** more students passed their courses with a C- or higher than courses taught by the same faculty member.
- In the 2005-6 academic year, **9.1%** of the SLA students received failing grades and **11.8%** of the students withdrew from courses with SLA workshops.
- On average, over **89-93%** 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 2005 - Winter 2006)

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 2005	1	1	10	1	1
Fall 2005	28	29	1351	23	62
Winter 2006	23	25	1144	19	56
TOTAL	52	55	2532	43	119

- The number of faculty is 2 less than the previous (2004-05) academic year while the number of SLA facilitators remained the same and the number of students enrolled in SLA course sections decreased by only 2%.
- There were 10% less courses offering SLA workshops (DHYG111, ECON221, and RFIM115) with only 7% less SLA course sections offered this year than the prior year.
- This academic year averaged 21 students per SLA workshop as compared to 20 and 23 for the previous two academic years.

SLA Courses Offered By College:							
Semester	Allied Health	Arts & Sciences	Business	Education	Pharmacy	Technology	University College
Summer 2005	MRIS211	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fall 2005	DHYG218 MRIS103 MRIS204 NUCM120 NURS105 NURS226 RADI121 SONO101	CHEM103 CHEM114 CHEM121 CHEM231 MATH010 MATH110 MATH115 MATH116 SOCY121	ACCT201 ACCT202 BLAW321 FINC322	0	0	EEET114 MECH340	0
Winter 2006	DHYG121 MRIS103 MRIS211 NURS116 NURS236 RADI111	CHEM103 CHEM114 CHEM122 MATH010 MATH110 MATH115 MATH116 PHYS211	ACCT201 ACCT202 BLAW321 FINC322	0	0	EEET124	0
TOTAL	15	17	8	0	0	3	0

- The College of Allied Health decreased in their overall number of workshops by two as a result of removing DHY111.
- The College of Arts & Sciences reduced by one SLA course offering as a result of removing SOCY121.
- The College of Business reduced by two SLA course offerings as a result of removing ECON221
- All other colleges remained the same.

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 2005	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (of 10)	100.0%
Fall 2005	106 (7.8%)	72 (5.3%)	1062 (of 1240)	85.6%
Winter 2006	135 (11.8%)	104 (4.1%)	836 (of 1082)	77.2%
TOTAL	241 (10.0%)	176 (4.6%)	1908 (2332)	81.8% (weighted average)

- The number of students who withdrew in Winter 2006 is 2.9% greater than Winter 2005.
- The number of students who failed in Winter 2006 is 5.0% greater than Winter 2005.
- For the Winter 2006 semester, 9% fewer students passed than in Winter 2005.
- **Overall there was only a 0.1% difference in the total % of graded SLA students who passed with a C- or higher grade when comparing the 2004-05 data with 2005-06. Both overall withdrawal and failure rates have increase from the previous year.**