



Final Report, Fall 2018

Program Statistics

- SLA was offered with 11 courses and 26 sections, compared to the 16 courses and 38 sections offered last fall. There were 16 facilitators, 7 of whom were first-time facilitators. This compares to 28 facilitators (15 new) last fall.
- A total of 13 faculty members participated in SLA compared to 22 last fall.
- SLA served 616 students in Fall 18. This compares to 950 students in Fall 17. This is down 334 students from last fall.

New Courses and Initiatives

- There were no new courses.

Outcomes for Fall 18

There were several courses that stood out this semester, including:

- The SLA section of BIOL 121 had a 100% pass rate compared with the NSLA and SLAC sections which had pass rates of 58% and 90% respectively. The SLA section also had 0 withdrawals/failures.
- The SLA sections of MATH 110 had a pass rate of 81% compared with a pass rate of 73% for the NSLA sections. The SLA sections also had a lower withdrawal/failure rate.
- The SLA sections of CHEM 121 had a 100% pass rate compared with the NSLA and SLAC sections which had pass rates of 91% and 97% respectively.
- The SLA section of CHEM 231 had an 85% pass rate compared with the pass rate from Fall 2017 of 75%.
- The SLA sections of MATH 115 had a pass rate of 65% compared to the SLAC which had a pass rate of 56%.

Challenges

- The SLA section of BIOL 122 had a pass rate of 73%, while the Fall 2017 pass rate for BIOL 122 was 94%.
- The SLA sections of CHEM 103 had a pass rate of 89% compared with the SLAC section's pass rate of 100%. Note that the SLA sections had a significantly lower HS GPA.
- The SLA sections of CHEM 114 had a pass rate of 74%, while the NSLA and SLAC sections had pass rates of 93% and 79% respectively. Note that the SLA sections had a significantly lower HS GPA than the other two groups.

Student Comments

- I had a hard time getting myself to go voluntarily because it was so far away from my dorm and so late at night. The distance wouldn't have been that big of deal if the shuttle bus was still running after 7. If I had a ride I would have gladly attended every class.
- The weeks I felt overwhelmed by the amount of material given to us it was a great relief to be able to attend SLA and get clarification and review on anything that might be confusing or even misunderstandings. I am not sure I would have been as successful in the course if there was not an SLA.
- I would rather have SLA in the afternoon rather than 6pm at night. Leaving at 7:30pm is too late.
- My SLA experience was quite enjoyable and helpful. I was never ashamed to ask questions because I knew I would receive help and not be judged. I doubt I would have a change at passing without SLA to help me learn.
- The instructor was amazing and having practice quizzes and tests help very much!
- SLA was very helpful and cleared up any confusion I had with my professor's lectures.
- I'm not good at math and SLA improved my grade from last semester.
- I hope SLA becomes more available within other courses.
- Thought SLA was going to be a bad thing at the beginning of the semester. But in the end I am so thankful I had the opportunity to go. My SLA class became like a family and I wouldn't have made the connections and conversation with the people I did without SLA.
- I found SLA very useful. I was able to bring my quiz average from a D average to a B average!
- The time and date of this class was very inconvenient, which made it difficult to attend as I am a commuter. It would be nice to have SLA right after class.
- It helped me prepare for all of my tests.
- I really like SLA, it's a nice place to ask questions that you might not get in the lecture.

Faculty Comments

1. What information shared by the SLA facilitator about the way students are receiving or understanding your course material has had the greatest impact on your instructional process?

- *Helps me become aware of the specific areas students are struggling most.*
- *Been able to make adjustments to the course assessment questions and problems. Tolerance band widened.*
- *The structure/due dates of assignments. I plan to be more consistent in what is due when, to help the students form a routine, which will help them be more organize.*
- *The SLA facilitator looked at some of my old exams and, along with her observations in lecture, used this material to reinforce the most important items during SLA sessions. She also used this information to create practice exams before each of my exams to give the students a 'pre-exam' to test their comprehension.*

2. Do you feel being involved in the SLA Program has helped to improve your own teaching?

In what ways? (Please be specific.)

- *I've will always strive to improve my own teaching and isn't really a reflection as to whether or not I have an SLA. With that said, it's always great to get feedback from the SLA facilitator as to the areas in which most students are struggling.*
- *Not recently. Did at the beginning.*
- *Not this semester, as I was also busy working for another school, but since I will be able to focus solely on Ferris next year, I will be able to implement more ways to help at-risk students, as well as more activities to help engage students.*
- **YES**
- *It has most definitely helped improve my teaching. Having another set of 'instructor' eyes and ears in the classroom helps me better assess student understanding (and attitude) in the class. More data points allow me to better adjust my teaching style to fit the student's learning needs.*

3. Can you offer any suggestions about additional information, skills, or strategies that might be helpful for future SLA Faculty orientation/training sessions?

- *None*
- *I am very satisfied with the level of training for incoming SLA facilitators.*
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4. Is there anything that the SLA Program Supervisor can do to assist you more in your involvement with the SLA Program? Is communication, training, information, etc. satisfactory?

- *Everything, up to this point has been satisfactory.*
- *I am happy with the training of my facilitator.*
- *No*
- *I am satisfied with the level of support from the SLA program supervisor.*

5. Please share any additional comments you feel would help in the evaluation of the SLA Program.

- *Jennifer was very cordial and professional. It was my pleasure working with her and her tutor, Ian.*
- *SLA is a great program and is extremely helpful to students in SLA sections and to the continued development of SLA facilitators themselves.*

Training

- SLA Faculty and Facilitator Meet and Greet held August 24, 2018
- Informal training conversations with SLA Faculty occur periodically
- New SLA facilitator training was held August 22th – 24th, 2018
- Monthly meetings are held for SLA Facilitators