

Final Report, Fall 2019

Program Statistics

- SLA was offered with 11 courses and 26 sections, equivalent to last fall 2018. There were 18 facilitators, 6 of whom were first-time facilitators. This compares to 16 facilitators (7 new) in Fall 2018.
- A total of 11 faculty members participated in SLA compared to 13 last fall.
- SLA served 695 students in fall 2019. This compares to 616 students in fall 2018. This is an increase of 79 students from last fall.

New Courses and Initiatives

- There were no new courses.

Outcomes for Fall 19

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

- The SLA section of CHEM 121 had a 97% pass rate compared with the NSLA and SLAC sections which had pass rates of 86% and 95% respectively. The SLA section also had 0 withdrawals and 0 failures.
- The SLA sections of ACCT 201 had a pass rate of 93% compared with the NSLA and SLAC sections which has pass rates of 82% and 86%. The SLA sections also had a lower withdrawal/failure rate.
- The SLA sections of BIOL 121 had a 91% pass rate compared with the NSLA and SLAC sections which had pass rates of 81% and 86% respectively. The SLA sections also had a lower withdrawal/failure rate.
- The SLA section of RAD1 121 had a 100% pass rate and a low withdrawal rate and 0 failures.
- The SLA section of CHEM 103 had a pass rate of 92% with a low withdrawal/failure rate.
- The SLA section of EEET 114 had a 91% pass rate with a low withdrawal/failure rate.
- The SLA section of MATH 010 had an 83% pass rate with a low withdrawal rate.

Challenges

- The SLA section of CHEM 114 had a pass rate of 76% with 2 withdrawals and 4 failures. The SLAC section had a pass rate of 77% with 3 withdrawals and 4 failures.
- The SLA section of MATH 115 had a pass rate of 40% with 21 withdrawals and 5 failures. The NSLA had a pass rate of 82% with 20 withdrawals and 34 failures.

- The SLA section of MATH 110 had a pass rate of 74% with 29 withdrawals and 8 failures. The NSLA section had a pass rate of 62% with 19 withdrawals and 36 failures.

Student Comments

- I thought that this class helped me understand more material than I would have if I hadn't taken it.
- I went to SLA before every test or quiz because usually there would be a practice quiz or test over the information. It helped me greatly preparing for the test.
- Going to SLA sessions helped relieve my test anxiety and help me better prepare for tests and quizzes.
- I also feel that advisors should clearly explain what SLA is to students when helping them build a schedule.
- I didn't personally feel that I needed SLA considering the lower difficulty of the class, but I think it's a nice system to help struggling students unfamiliar with the material, as well as providing a good environment for questions.
- I don't know that it (SLA) should be held directly after class, but it definitely needs to be earlier in the day for it to be more engaging to student. I know that means scheduling issues, though.
- SLA helped me understand lectures a lot more. I was able to ask questions and clear up concepts I was not sure about. Overall, I am glad I attended SLA and I do believe it really helped my grade and understanding of my course.

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?

- *SLA students tend to be more open and comfortable talking with the SLA facilitator (since the facilitator is a student) than a faculty member. Being aware of challenges that student in the class face helps me better tailor my teaching to the students in a way that takes these "outside of the classroom" issues into account.*
- *Prompt release of study guides to students has helped students' preparedness for the study and test taking.*
- *Information on the pace of the material is useful to know about.*
- *The students who attended the SLA program regularly were doing much better than many of their peers. Because of this, I recommended SLA program to those students who needed additional help but did not get it from the start of the semester.*

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

In what ways? (Please be specific.)

- *My teaching is most definitely improved by the SLA program. Talking things out with my facilitator forces me to reflect on my teaching strategies for the course.*

- *Yes! I worked very closely and very well with the SLA facilitator and so was able to get her feedback based on what she was experiencing/hearing in the workshops.*
 - *Yes, since another set of eyes can provide insight in what students know or any misconceptions.*
 - *Yes. The SLA program has always been producing very positive impacts on students' learning and my own teaching. Working with SLA program facilitator makes me aware that some students do need additional help for achieving better grades.*
- 3. Can you offer any suggestions about additional information, skills, or strategies that might be helpful for future SLA Faculty orientation/training sessions?**
- *Excellent/knowledgeable lab facilitator like the one I had this semester is invaluable.*
 - *No other suggestions*
 - *I think it would be helpful for faculty to attend an orientation to become familiar with policies/requirements of SLA (I came on board late, so I may have missed it). SLA instructors should follow the policy in the classroom. If students are not allowed to use the cellphone, computers, or listen to music then the SLA instructor should follow it too.*
- 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?**
- *No. Yes.*
 - *Things have been working well so far. Much satisfied with the current practice of the program. The program can be offered to all the students who are at risk of failure from the whole class.*
 - *No*
- 5. Please share any additional comments you feel would help in the evaluation of the SLA Program.**
- *The program can be offered to all the students who are at the risk of failure from the whole class. The current offering of SLA program is confined to a particular section of a class though the other students are free to attend.*
 - *Improvement in my interaction with this year's facilitator compared to last years facilitator.*
 - *I think it is an effective program. We ran into some issues with workshop attendance, but for the students who consistently attend (the majority), performance surpassed my non-SLA courses significantly (half a letter grade for more).*

Training

- SLA Faculty and Facilitator Meet and Greet held August 23, 2019
- Informal training conversations with SLA Faculty occur periodically and they receive program information
- New SLA facilitator training was held August 21st – 23rd, 2019
- Monthly meetings are held for SLA Facilitators
- The SLA Stole Ceremony was held on December 5, 2019.

