

## Final Report, Spring 2020

### Program Statistics

- SLA was offered with **11** courses and **29** sections, compared to **10** courses and **26** sections offered Spring 2019. There were **16** facilitators, **6** of whom were first-time facilitators. This compares to 14 facilitators (4 new) in Spring 2019.
- A total of 14 faculty members participated in SLA compared to 14 last spring.
- SLA served **552** students in Spring 20. This compares to **589** students in Spring 2019. This is a **decrease** of **37** students from last spring.

### New Courses and Initiatives

- There were no new courses.

### Outcomes for Spring 20

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

- The SLA section of RADI 143 had a 100% pass rate had 0 withdrawals and 0 failures.
- The SLA section of CHEM 121 had a 95% pass rate compared with the SLAC section which had pass rate of 92% respectively. The SLA section also had 2 withdrawals and 1 failure.
- The SLA sections of ACCT 201 had a pass rate of 85% compared with the NSLA and SLAC sections which has pass rates of 86% and 81%. The SLA section had 4 withdrawals and 2 Failures.
- The SLA section of CHEM 114 had a pass rate of 81% compared with the SLAC section which had a pass rate of 79% respectively.
- The SLA section of MATH 115 had a pass rate of 77% with 2 withdrawals and 3 failures. The NSLA had a pass rate of 68% with 39 withdrawals and 33 failures.
- The SLA section of CHEM 103 had a pass rate of 81% with 10 withdrawals and 0 failures.
- The SLA section of EEET 114 has a 73% pass rate with a low withdrawal/failure rate.

### Challenges

- The SLA section of CHEM 122 has a pass rate of 77% in comparison to the NSLA and SLAC that had pass rates of 66% and 92% respectively. Please note the incoming HS GPA for the SLAC was a 3.91, quite higher than the other two sections

- The SLA section of MATH 110 had a pass rate of 65% with 20 withdrawals and 17 failures. The SLAC section had a pass rate of 17% with 3 withdrawals and 7 failures.
- The SLA section of MATH 010 has an 48% pass rate along with 2 withdrawals and 8 failures.

### **Student Comments**

#### **1. What aspects of virtual/remote SLA sessions were most helpful?**

1. Everything was helpful but it took me a while to find everything online.
2. Being recorded so I could play back lessons.
3. They were very helpful; it was like I was back in the classroom.
4. Classes were quicker and more to the point (less social talking).
5. Having the worksheets ahead of time so I could try them on my own.
6. Still getting to see the examples worked out.

#### **2. In what ways was the SLA facilitator helpful in assisting you and your academic success?**

1. My SLA facilitator helped in a lot of ways, when I was confused, she'd start at whatever I knew and then explained the work to me the best way that she could so that I understood.
2. Yes, he worked so hard to create work sheets for us based off the test and helped us review before test and let us ask any questions we had.
3. She is so helpful, smart, and wants students to succeed. Without her, I would have failed out. In any way that she could, by responding to questions, finding (or even crafting) supplemental material to what we had learned in the lectures, helping students through concepts that they may have found difficult, and being open in communicating with the class.

#### **3. What challenge have you encountered with the virtual/remote SLA learning experience?**

1. Difficult to get help on problems without being shown how to do them.
2. Lack of communication with the professor, increased workload in short periods of time, and trying to keep up with tests when he was moving quickly with lecture content.
3. Although I was still learning, I didn't receive any hands-on experience which was a down fall.
4. I personally do not learn well online so going from face to face to all online was a huge struggle overall.

#### **4. If SLA sessions continue through remote/virtual delivery in the future, what adjustments do you suggest help make the experience as helpful as possible?**

1. Do not make it mandatory to attend. I could use the time doing the work on my own instead of sitting with others on a screen.
2. I wouldn't consider the remote/virtual delivery. Without face to face classes, it's a lot more difficult to understand things, it's stressful.

3. I would probably set up zoom meetings or have individual zoom meetings that students can sign up for during the SLA time slots.
  4. Maybe a zoom meeting here and there just to check in and see if there's questions. Otherwise I think it's good!
- 5. Your opinion is valuable to us. Please take a moment to comment on your SLA experience and/or to offer any suggestions on how to improve SLA.**
1. SLA has definitely helped with this very difficult course. If you attend and put in effort in SLA, you will notice positive results on tests. If you don't, the same will happen but in a negative way.
  2. I think SLA is very good for just repetition and mastery of skills. I believe that it can help you learn the skills but if you are really struggling, I believe a personal tutor may be your best option. However, SLA can help someone with a little bit of knowledge understand the concepts exponentially better.
  3. I think the set up was great and it was laid back which helped not stressing for upcoming tests. Ryley was very engaging and positive the whole time, so it didn't feel like a waste of time and it gave me easy access to get help.
  4. I honestly do not like online SLA at all, I feel like it hasn't helped me. I know that cannot be easily changed due to COVID-19, but I really am not sure what could improve SLA.

### **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?**
  1. Identifying problem areas for the students.
  2. Positive feedback.
  3. She would let me know the questions/struggles brought up by students in the workshops so I could highlight or address these issues in class.
- 2. Do you feel being involved in the SLA Program has helped to improve your own teaching? In what ways? (Please be specific.)**
  1. To be honest, my teaching methods are the same regardless of whether or not I have SLA sections.
  2. Yes.
  3. Absolutely. My students felt very comfortable asking questions in the workshops which helped to highlight areas I needed to focus on in class lectures.
- 3. Can you offer any suggestions about additional information, skills, or strategies that might be helpful for future SLA Faculty orientation/training sessions?**
  1. Getting some training from previous facilitators would be great.
  2. None at this time.

**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?**

1. No, I don't think so. All is satisfactory.
2. None at this time.

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

1. I was very impressed by the maturity and professionalism of the facilitator. An excellent role model for the student. He was also empathetic.
2. It is a great asset to the struggling students.
3. None at this time.

### **Facilitator Comments**

**1. What were some of the difficulties you experienced being a facilitator? (facilitating, enforcing rules/policies, working with challenging students, professor communication, etc.)**

1. Enforcing policies and dealing with students who would talk back.
2. Encouraging students to come when we switched to online.
3. One difficult part about being a facilitator was making worksheets that really helped. After a while, I got the hang of it.
4. Challenges with moving online and the attendance policy. Many of my students do not have Wi-Fi, making it near impossible to complete school content. Pre-COVID, I had little to zero issues.

**2. Discuss two things you enjoyed about being a facilitator and found rewarding this semester.**

1. I loved my students and the professor I worked with this year, and they really looked at me as an expert, which felt rewarding. I saw them flourish in the classroom and feel confident going into tests.
2. I enjoyed seeing students understand material after struggling to do so initially. If I can positively impact even a few people, it makes me feel that my work is worthwhile. Additionally, I was happy to see many students develop a passion for the course material, which resulted in newfound excitement for their future careers.
3. I enjoyed introducing concepts that provoked questions from the students. It was rewarding to watch some pull their grade up so they didn't need to attend anymore.
4. I love meeting more Ferris students who I remain friends with after the class is done, it creates a better campus environment. I truly enjoy being able to use my abilities and strengths to benefit others. SLA has been an amazing opportunity that I continue to enjoy more every semester.

**3. In what ways could the coordinator have been more helpful to you this semester?**

1. I was happy with the assistance that I was able to receive!

2. Nothing - the coordinator was very helpful!
3. It was all great!
4. Just giving me tips and tricks on what to do.
5. The only thing I needed was more whiteboard markers :)
6. Karen, Alyssa, and Teresa have always been incredibly helpful and kind throughout my time at Ferris. Karen works tirelessly and diligently to support all SLA facilitators and I am very thankful for helping me throughout the semester!

### Training

- SLA Faculty and Facilitator Meet and Greet held January 10, 2020
- Informal training conversations with SLA Faculty occur periodically and they receive program information
- New SLA facilitator training was held January 8-10, 2020
- Monthly meetings are held for SLA Facilitators
- A virtual SLA facilitator graduation recognition video was created Spring 2020 due to COVID-19.





### **2019-2020 SLA Facilitator Stole Ceremony**

### **Virtual SLA Graduation Recognition Video**

- <https://youtu.be/WPGyrgF89T4>

## **COVID-19 Questions: Facilitators, Students and Faculty**

### **Facilitator Comments**

- 1. If SLA sessions continued through remote/virtual delivery in the future, what adjustments do you suggest help make the experience as helpful as possible?**
  1. Make sure students come.
  2. Well it would certainly help if remote delivery was the primary system for the whole semester, so that morale and motivation was higher, and facilitators were able to be more technically prepared.
  3. This is a tricky question as some adjustments may not be feasible due to students having technological issues from time to time. I would love for there to be a way to monitor all students at the same time as we do when in-person, however, this is likely not feasible though I wish it were.
  4. Prior to the semester, I think it would be beneficial to determine which students have reliable internet access. This can help to resolve any issues with this in advance. I also thought about the possibility of changing our role to more of a "coach" than that of a workshop facilitator. If the sections were small enough, we could create practice materials for everyone, and establish times to individually meet with each student who is required to attend, so long as the meeting slots are short enough to avoid excessive strain on the facilitator. This would provide more personalized attention in an environment that is largely impersonal.

### **Student Comments**

#### **1. If SLA sessions continue through remote/virtual delivery in the future, what adjustments do you suggest help make the experience as helpful as possible?**

1. Mandatory meetings with professors every month.
2. I wouldn't consider the remote/virtual delivery. Without face to face classes, it's a lot more difficult to understand things, it's stressful.
3. I think our facilitator did a great job with the switch and I. wouldn't change a thing.
4. Add a recorded video of what happened in the class.

5. I still think you should try and simulate being there in class. I think when teachers use Zoom to have class its way more beneficial to me, more than just posting a lecture because you can ask questions and interact with the teacher. Having a Zoom class simulates actual face to face learning which fits my style of learning better.

### **Faculty Comments**

#### **1.If SLA courses continue through remote/virtual delivery in the future, what adjustments do you suggest help the experience as helpful as possible?**

1. My current SLA facilitator and I were great about keeping in touch during the remote delivery; however, I would suggest a weekly or biweekly touch base between professor and SLA facilitator be mandatory or recommended.

#### **2.In what ways was the SLA facilitator helpful in assisting you through remote/virtual delivery?**

1. The facilitator offered additional zoom sessions to answer students' questions. Went above and beyond the call of duty. The facilitator was also very independent and required no assistance in virtual delivery of the SLA activities.
2. He/she was more familiar with online methods than I was.
3. She jumped right in and created her own remote delivery of SLA materials which the students appreciated (and so did I).
4. She set up a Teams group, which is beneficial in communication.

#### **3. What challenges have you encountered with delivering remote instruction?**

1. Students are struggling with personal motivation, also internet connections.
2. It was a very steep learning curve in a very short time period.
3. Accountability.

#### **4. What have you found most successful in delivering remote instructions?**

1. Tegrity videos of lecture and online quizzes. The Tegrity videos allowed students to watch the video more than once if needed and pause when needed.
2. Recorded lectures; weekly communications to students.
3. Sticking to a schedule, consistent check-ins and multiple times available for office hours.
4. The students may review the online videos if they wish.