



Supplemental Instruction Provides Students Skills4Success

Students at the College of the Canyons Canyon Country campus now have a new tool to help gain the edge in their classes and be academically successful, thanks to the many supplemental instruction (SI) resources being offered on campus each week.

Supplemental instruction at COC is designed to improve student success through additional, out-of-class instruction and increased learning opportunities that are focused on providing students with the knowledge and learning skills that are most crucial to success in a college classroom.

A division of the college's larger Skills4Success Basic Skills Initiative, the goal of supplemental instruction is to support student learning in subject areas that can have a dramatic impact on student achievement — no matter the student's course of study.

"Supplemental instruction at the Canyon Country campus is a wonderful resource to the more than 4,700 students taking classes here on campus. Our goal is to ensure that all students have access to the wealth of student support services offered by College of the Canyons," said Dr. Dena Maloney, vice president of the Canyon Country Campus and Economic Development. "Providing resources which directly support student success will assist students in achieving their educational goals."

Thought of as an extension of the classroom, supplemental instruction can be a combination of guided practice exercises, curriculum-driven activities, peer learning opportunities and other forms of individualized support that may not be available to students during normal classroom hours.

Forms of supplemental instruction available to students include a rotating schedule of hour-long, faculty-led workshops, and individual based guided learning activities (GLAs). Particular areas of focus include literacy, learning skills, math and critical thinking.

Common SI workshop topics include: reading textbooks, how to start an essay, paragraph structure, online research, avoiding plagiarism, time management, test-taking strategies, punctuation, vocabulary building and — perhaps most popular — preparing for finals.

As an alternative for students who are unable to attend a scheduled SI workshop, corresponding GLAs are available to students anytime the TLC lab is open and can be completed on the student's schedule.

"For every workshop topic there is an equivalent GLA, which models the content and handouts designed to accompany each supplemental instruction workshop," said Mary Petersen, co-coordinator of the college's supplemental instruction program.

Performed individually at a computer, a typical GLA may ask a student to complete a brief reading or watch a slide presentation, before performing a series of corresponding activities designed to instill the skills associated with that particular lesson.

Students then collaborate with an on-site tutor or instructor to review their work, ask questions and complete the assignment at their own pace.

"This engagement with a tutor and individualized attention in a particular area of need is what makes a GLA so different, and much more interactive, than a typical homework assignment," said Jose Martin, co-coordinator of the supplemental instruction program.

SI workshops are offered at the Canyon Country campus, in room 303 at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and 12:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, nearly every week of the semester.

However, students can complete a GLA in the campus' TLC Lab, located in room 308, anytime during regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Workshops and GLAs will not be offered during the week of finals, Dec. 6-11.

All SI workshops and GLAs are free to COC students. Students need not register in advance in order to attend, however workshops are traditionally limited to the first 20 participants.

For more information about the College of the Canyons Skills4Success program or to view a full schedule of supplemental instruction opportunities at the Canyon Country campus please visit www.canyons.edu/Skills4Success.



COC instructor Mary Petersen, co-coordinator of the college's supplemental instruction (SI) program, explains some of the principles of online research to COC student Yusuke Ohashi, during a recent SI workshop. Faculty-led SI workshops are offered at the Canyon Country campus nearly every week of the semester.

