

Cross Institutional Implementation of Supplemental Instruction (SI)

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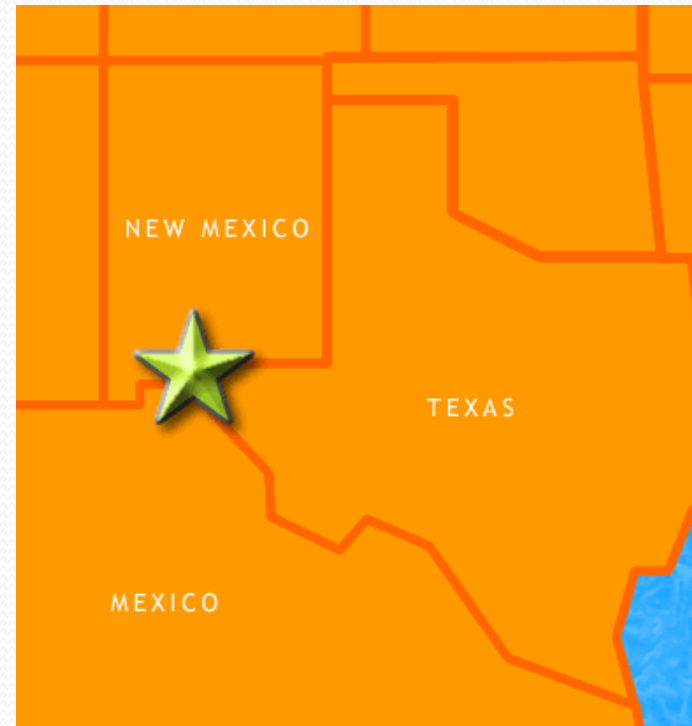


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EPCC Student Population Profile

El Paso Community College is the second largest Hispanic-serving community college in the nation.

- More than 24 000 credit students
- 88% Hispanic
- 60% female
- 61% part-time students



Main Challenge

Incoming students are not well-prepared for studying STEM disciplines.

The two Precalculus courses at EPCC often serve as a roadblock for incoming students:

- Low passing rates
- High drop rates





We currently have funding from the U.S. Department of Education (MSEIP program) to provide students at EPCC in Precalculus I and II with **Supplemental Instruction (SI)**, to enhance student achievement in high-risk courses through collaborative learning techniques.

The main focus of our project is to enrich the learning experience in these two courses by adding mandatory **Supplemental Instruction** as an integral part of the courses.

SI sessions are led by UTEP graduate students. Most of these students have already gained peer leading experience as undergraduates at UTEP.



The new delivery format includes more Peer-led Learning:

Precalculus I

Three hours lecture
per week;
One section has
30-35 students

+

One hour Supplemental
Instruction per week;
Three sections with
10-12 students each

Precalculus II

Four hours lecture
per week;
One section has
30-35 students

+

One hour Supplemental
Instruction per week;
Three sections with
10-12 students each

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

What is SI?

- *SI* targets high-risk courses instead of high-risk students.
- *SI* is mandatory for all students in the class; it is integral to the course
- *SI* is active learning in small size sections, group-based, led by an SI leader; it is not an additional lecture, a study-group, or tutoring.
- *SI* is dynamic, interactive, argumentative and engaging.
- *SI* begins in the first week of class before students encounter academic problems.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

What are SI leaders?

- ***SI leaders*** are graduate students from UTEP, extensively trained to help students learn the mathematics in the course.
- ***SI leaders*** attend classes together with their students, take class notes, hold office hours, and conduct regularly scheduled SI sessions.
- ***SI leaders***, rather than acting as lecturers or teachers, facilitate and encourage the student groups in their SI sessions to understand the class material and solve mathematical problems.

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