Supplemental Instruction Faculty Recommendation Form

To the student: Complete Section I of this form and forward to the recommending MCC faculty member.

Section I: Student’s Name: ________________________________
Signed: ________________________________ Date: ____________

Section II: To MCC Faculty member:
The above named student has applied for a position as Supplemental Instruction Leader for the upcoming academic semester. Your input is a valuable part of the SI Leader application process as we strive to select the most qualified, competent SI Leaders.
Please provide a candid evaluation of his or her potential to serve effectively as a Supplemental Instruction Leader.

Options for returning Faculty Recommendations:
- Send an email to greeng@middlesex.mass.edu
- Call Genevieve Green, Assistant Director of Supplemental Instruction at 978-656-3358 or
- Inter-office mail: Complete the information below & return through inter-office mail to:
  Genevieve Green
  Academic Centers for Enrichment
  Lowell Campus, City Building, 403

Check One:
_____ I recommend the candidate strongly.
_____ I recommend this candidate with reservation.
_____ I do not recommend this candidate as a SI leader.

Comments:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Faculty Signature: ________________________________ Date: ____________
Faculty Name: ________________________________
Course Name: ________________________________ Course # _______ CRN# _______
Course schedule: ________________________________

*If there is more than one course/section you recommend this student for, please include that information below:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

WHAT IS SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION?
Supplemental Instruction is an academic support program which targets difficult courses. An SI Leader, who is recommended by a faculty member, models successful student behavior during class meeting times and holds regularly scheduled, voluntary, and anonymous peer facilitated study sessions outside of class each week. Supplemental Instruction is for students enrolled in targeted historically difficult courses within the STEM and Health programs at MCC. Our goal is to offer additional resources to better support students and increase student persistence and success in STEM and Health barrier courses.

WHAT IS A SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION (SI) LEADER?
SI Leaders are academically motivated students who have successfully completed a barrier course in the STEM or Health area with a B or better. They are recommended by a faculty member because they are responsible, have a clear understanding of the course content, and are able to communicate effectively with both their faculty and peers.

WHAT DO SI LEADERS DO?
SI Leaders attend class meeting times and/or labs, where they model successful student behavior. In addition to their time in class, they plan and facilitate two study sessions outside of class. During SI sessions, the leaders facilitate activities that will assist students in learning how to study course material. Study skills, such as note taking and textbook reading, are integrated with subject-specific content. Students also learn to conceptualize and understand patterns found within a discipline while mastering problem solving techniques. SI Leaders employ the Socratic method of questioning to engage the students’ minds in understanding course concepts. SI Leaders do not lecture or re-teach.

HOW IS AN SI LEADER DIFFERENT THAN A TEACHING ASSISTANT?
The SI Leader is a peer facilitator attached to your course. Their goal is to facilitate an interactive session based on course content and encourage your students to help learn from each other. They cannot lecture new material or re-teach information. SI Leaders cannot grade homework or exams, take attendance, or proctor exams. Our goal is to make sure that the SI Leaders maintain a peer-to-peer relationship with the students in the course, and that they are not viewed as instructors.

WILL THE SI LEADERS BE TRAINED?
Yes! They attend an intensive two day training prior to the start of every semester. Each SI Leader is trained in learning styles, collaborative learning, group facilitation and conflict management. SI Leaders are also required to attend monthly meetings throughout the semester, where they are further developed as student leaders and study group facilitators.

ARE SI LEADERS SUPERVISED?
SI Leaders are observed regularly throughout the semester by staff members who have been trained in the supplemental instruction model. SI Leaders are also assigned an SI Mentor (a returning SI Leader who has been trained to advise and support new SI Leaders) who will contact them regularly and step in when additional support is needed. SI leaders are required to upload all of their study session plans and attendance to Blackboard weekly. SI session plans are reviewed each week by supplemental instruction staff members.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY SI LEADER?
If SI is successfully embedded, it should decrease the number of students who seek extra help from the instructor outside of class. The SI Leader is asked to communicate with their instructor weekly (in person or by email) to make sure everything is running smoothly. From time to time the SI Leader will ask to make announcements in class about upcoming sessions and office hours. The SI Leader will hand out a survey to the class at the beginning of the semester and again at the end of the semester. Lastly, faculty support of SI is very important to the success of the program. More students will attend sessions if they are encouraged to by their professor.

*All SI Leaders must pass a rigorous selection process and are required to receive training on how to facilitate collaborative study sessions*