Supplemental Instruction Success Rate Comparison (08/09 AY)

Introduction
In order to better understand the impact of Supplemental Instruction (SI) program upon
student success, an examination was conducted. The examination was a comparison of
success rates for students who enrolled in SI supported courses to those students who
enrolled in non-SI supported courses.

Below are the findings from this examination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Termnum</th>
<th>Non-SI Count</th>
<th>Non-SI %</th>
<th>SI Count</th>
<th>SI %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 08</td>
<td>Non-success</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 09</td>
<td>Non-success</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary
In order to properly interpret this data, several weaknesses of this examination must be
acknowledged. While there are differences in success rates between SI and non-SI
courses, these success rates could be caused by multiple factors independent of the
intervention. For example, factors like instructor training or experience level may be
contributing to these differences rather than the intervention itself. In future more
detailed examinations, some of these factors can be controlled for, nevertheless, they
need to be acknowledged in the current study.

These limitations aside, there seems to be a considerable difference between success
rates in SI and non-SI classes. Most of these differences can be accounted for by the
lower success rate in Fall 08 in the non-SI classes (38.8%). The difference between that
rate and the SI-group (55.4%) was considerable (16.6%).
There are of course many explanations which could potentially account for this difference. The intervention might have contributed to these differences. Additionally, something about the non-SI courses this term may have affected these differences.