Supplemental Instruction for MATH 1530, Elementary Probability and Statistics at the Magnolia Campus

Submitted by Sue Ann Jones Dobbyn
Instructor of Mathematics

Department Chair’s Signature______________________
Overview of Project:

The purpose of this proposal is to address the need for course-specific assistance for students in MATH 1530. Historically, many requests are received each semester for tutoring in MATH 1530 which can only be partially satisfied by the tutoring center at the Magnolia campus. At the same time, the number of students enrolled in this class has increased dramatically. Since Supplemental Instruction in other math classes, such as MATH 1130, has improved both retention and success, I would like to implement this program in one MATH 1530 section in Fall 2009 and one in Spring 2010 at Magnolia Avenue. I believe this program would better address the student’s need for additional assistance as well as improve retention and success in this course.

The program would offer sessions led by an SI leader, a student who has experience as a student tutor at Magnolia and has SI experience in other classes. The SI leader will attend the class and schedule 3 to 4 one hour tutoring sessions outside class each week. The instructor and SI leader will meet weekly and collaborate to tailor the sessions to meet the needs of the students involved.

Specific improvements expected:

1. SI leader will provide specific tutoring to identify and correct student’s misunderstandings in the course.
2. SI leader will foster a spirit of community and common purpose by attending the class and scheduling sessions to meets the time demands of the students.
3. Collaboration between instructor, SI leader and students will encourage students to believe that they can succeed in the class and improve retention.
4. SI leader will reinforce language and methodology used by the instructor in explaining and reviewing the subject matter.

The program will also be helpful to the SI leader involved by:

1. Improving the statistical knowledge of the SI leader as they prepare and review for the tutoring sessions.
2. Providing an authentic teaching experience for a talented student who might be considering teaching as a profession.

As the SI supervisor, my responsibilities will include:

1. Interviewing and hiring the SI leader.
2. Assisting in training the SI leader.
3. Holding weekly meetings with the SI leader.
4. Observing at least three SI sessions and assisting in the evaluation of the SI leader.
5. Evaluating the impact of the project at Magnolia Avenue.
**Project Evaluation:**

I plan to measure the effectiveness of the project by:

1. Comparing the retention and success rates of MATH1530 before and after implementation of the program.
2. Comparing the retention and success rates of MATH1530 students who do participate in the SI sessions with the retention and success rates of MATH1530 students who do not participate.
3. Using other assessment techniques, such as an exit survey, to determine the effect of the program on affective criteria such as student perception of the class and student confidence.

The program would be implemented in the Fall 2009 semester and extended to Spring 2010.

**Budget:**

The proposed SI program would initially reach approximately 22 students but other MATH1530 students would be informed of this opportunity which would increase the outreach. In addition, the program may be successful enough to generate new SI leaders for future classes in this subject.

**Fall 2009:**

Materials: $0

Duplication/Printing: $0

Travel: $0

SI Leader Stipend: Number of hours per semester times hourly rate (not to exceed $1500)

Total Cost for Fall 2009: not to exceed $1500

**Spring 2010:**

Materials: $0

Duplication/Printing: $0

Travel: $0

SI Leader Stipend: Number of hours per semester times hourly rate (not to exceed $1500)

Total Cost for Fall 2009: not to exceed $1500

**TOTAL COST FOR PROJECT: not to exceed $3000**