

# SI Leaders vs. Tutors: What's the Difference?<sup>1</sup>

Iowa State University

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All Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders and Tutors support student learning, but the purpose of each position leads to a different approach to serving students. The chart below compares some differences in the positions.

There are clear benefits for both programs. Students are encouraged to use either program (or both) to best meet their needs.

<b>The SI Leader...</b>	<b>The Tutor...</b>
...focuses SI session on the content in a specific course.	...may focus on a subject or a course.
...typically works with larger groups at a time, but divides the large groups into smaller groups.	...works with smaller groups of 1-5 students at a time.
...has demonstrated competence in a course by earning at least a B+.	...has demonstrated competence in a course by earning at least a B.
...attends the class with students and participates in lectures.	...does not attend lectures with students.
...prepares content for the SI sessions based on the lecture and course content.	...prepares general content for the tutoring sessions, but adapts to students' needs communicated at the onset of the session.
...uses classroom settings and classroom resources.	...uses small group locations, classroom settings, and informal gathering spaces across campus.
...participates in an initial 9-hour orientation and ~10 additional hours of on-going training throughout the semester.	...participates in an initial 2-hour orientation and may choose to pursue additional training.
...is open to assisting all students in a course.	...works only with students who have requested and been assigned a tutor.
...expects students to attend SI sessions as often as they are able.	...expects assigned tutee(s) to attend every tutoring session.
...schedules SI sessions based on the availability of the most students possible.	...schedules tutoring based on mutual availability of the tutee(s) and tutor.
...communicates regularly with the course instructor, and the instructor is aware of the SI session content.	...communicates with the course instructor only if needed.

Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring Services are two on-campus options to facilitate learning. Neither are intended to replace attending class, reading textbooks, or completing other course assignments.

For more information about these services at Iowa State University visit [www.dso.iastate.edu/asc](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/asc)

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<sup>1</sup> Comparison based in part on the Angelo State University *SI Program Faculty Guide*.