

Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGID)

What is an SGID?

A Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGID) uses class interviews with students to provide information for the instructor to strengthen the course, increase communication among students and the teacher, and improve instruction. The process identifies strengths of the course and areas that need improvement. SGIDs are typically conducted at midterm, and are anonymous and confidential. The results are shared only with the instructor.

Who conducts an SGID?

Faculty member Ken White coordinates SGIDs at EvCC and provides training annually to tenured faculty members who are interested in serving as SGID facilitators. Facilitators receive two hours of compensation at the faculty special assignment rate for completion of an SGID.

How is an SGID conducted?

- A facilitator meets with the instructor to discuss the course and to determine how the SGID can best provide specific feedback for the instructor. They agree on the date and time to conduct the SGID in the class.
- Before the SGID, the instructor explains to the class that he/she has invited the facilitator to meet with the students to gather feedback about positive aspects of the course and areas that need improvement.
- The facilitator meets with students in the class—absent the instructor—to obtain the information. The facilitator directs students to form small groups, select a note taker and come to consensus on answers to questions determined by the instructor. The questions may take a variety of forms, but always focus on strengths in the class, areas for improvement, and concrete suggestions about how to make improvements. The following are typical questions asked during a SGID:

1. What helps you to learn in this class?
2. What areas need improvement, and HOW would you make those improvements?

Following ten minutes of discussion, students report results to the entire class. The facilitator listens and summarizes the groups' ideas in a written form, clarifying until group members are satisfied that the information is being reported clearly. A SGID can take between 30 and 50 minutes.

- After the SGID, the facilitator and instructor meet to discuss student comments and develop an effective instructional response to the needs of both the students and the instructor.

What are the benefits to students and instructors?

Since the 1980s, student and instructor responses to the SGID method have been outstanding. Students appreciate the midterm timing that provides opportunity for changes to affect them directly. Instructors appreciate the supportive interaction with the facilitator as well as the information from students that helps them make specific changes in the course.

How do I schedule an SGID?

Contact faculty member Ken White by email at kwhite@everettcc.edu or by phone at 425.388.9498.

If you are interested in an SGID for one or more of your classes, it is best to contact Ken well before midterm of the quarter during which you would like assistance.