

Senior Instructional Leadership Corps (SILC)

Program Description

The Senior Instructional Leadership Corps (SILC) is designed to extend the premise of the Senior Helper program into the classroom by offering qualified seniors the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities associated with classroom instruction. Students in SILC will engage in leadership development through multi-purpose mentor relationships with teachers. Students are mentored by a cooperating teacher and serve as mentors to other students in the classroom.

Participants work in a classroom with a mentoring teacher 2-5 periods a week, assist in whatever curricular activities the teacher considers appropriate, and keep a weekly journal of their experiences. Regular seminar meetings with the SILC coordinators and mentor teachers utilize discussion, readings about teaching and education, and a final self-assessment of the SILC experience to complement students' in-class work.

Approximately seven seminar meetings are held throughout the semester. Mentor teachers, SILC students and coordinators collaboratively determine the nature of the work and how the students' learning will be assessed both in seminar and in the classroom. Students will receive academic credit on their transcript for their SILC experience.

Program Rationale

SILC offers students a unique opportunity to learn and demonstrate leadership in an instructional setting. Many students demonstrate leadership through extra-curricular activities, but those who enroll in SILC receive focused training and assessment-oriented feedback about their leadership skills. In addition, the course deepens students' understanding of teaching as a profession by providing access to close mentoring relationships with faculty, direct classroom involvement and relevant professional readings. SILC encourages students to cultivate an active learning style and become engaged with classroom goals and curricular concerns.

SILC Coordinators
Steve Belford and Susie Thorngren