



Processing of material through practice, activities, and discussion

Grounded in collaborative learning methods and activities

Recognizes that students may need different study supports

Provides a relaxed space to meet and connect with peers

Offers students scheduled study time with a senior student

Encourages students to take control of their learning

Successful Student Learning @ VIU

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Each semester participating students are surveyed to gauge the impact of PSL on a number of variables. In 2017-2018, out of 339 completed surveys;

- **72.2% of students** found PSL to be helpful or very helpful in **learning course material**
- **53.1% of students** found PSL to be helpful or very helpful in building their **learning confidence**
- **50.5% of students** found PSL to be helpful or very helpful in **continuing their enrollment.**

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Deeper learning of course material
- Enhanced social connections
- Improved course performance
- Increased intentions to persist
- Stronger motivation to develop good study skills and learning strategies
- Co-Curricular Record verified

BENEFITS TO PSL LEADERS

- Improved leadership skills
- Experience in managing group dynamics
- Deeper understanding of subject matter
- Improved organizational and communication skills
- Sense of having a positive impact on the success of others

For questions or inquiries:
Shelley-Anne.Gajda@viu.ca



VIU

KEEP
CALM
AND
STUDY
ON
WITH PSL

**PEER-SUPPORTED
LEARNING (PSL)**

Vancouver Island University





Why Peer-Supported Learning (PSL)?

Supporting Student Success & Resilience

Creating a supportive learning environment for students plays an important role in the success and persistence of our students.

Peer-Supported Learning is based on the Supplemental Instruction (SI) model, developed at UMKC in 1973 as a retention initiative. This internationally recognized program is grounded in recognized learning theories and supported by over 40 years of empirical research supporting its effectiveness.

PSL provides the opportunity for a space and place for students to study what they learned in class while collaborating with others in the process. Studies indicate that learning from your peers results in;

- Higher level thinking through discussing, paraphrasing, practicing, and explaining concepts
- A shift from memorization to conceptual understanding of material

(Sawyer and Berson, 2004)

What is PSL?

Facilitated study sessions

PSL focusses on traditionally difficult, required courses and offers free, regularly scheduled, peer-led study sessions to all students enrolled. Sessions are facilitated by a student who has previously taken and completed the course to a high standard.

How it works

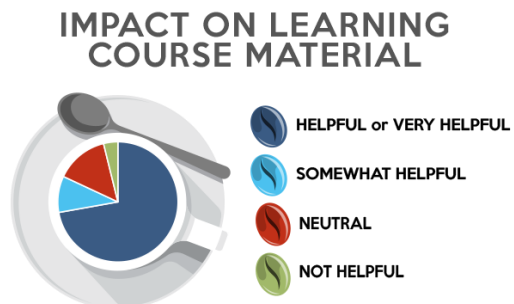
PSL leaders;

- attend their supported class again
- take notes, and;
- offer two (2), one hour study sessions per week, at convenient times for students

Leaders receive extensive training and support on how to facilitate study sessions, and not teach

They assist students in the development of problem-solving and study skills through collaborative activities.

PSL is a program that helps students transition to learning at university. Research and experience tells us that students face tremendous change and challenges as they transition to learning at university, and PSL is one of many supports available to them at VIU.



What does it take?

We recognize that faculty are fully engaged with classes. Faculty decide how much involvement they want to have. Some faculty are content with encouraging students to attend PSL sessions, while others want to know more such as what is being reviewed, what are students finding difficult, and what activities are used in sessions. Faculty can help us by;

- Providing five (5) minutes during the first week of classes for the PSL leader to introduce them self and the program
- Encouraging students to attend sessions and take advantage of this free study service
- Allowing time at the end of the semester for our in-class survey
- Providing feedback to the coordinator with any questions or concerns

Faculty make a difference

Showing support and encouraging attendance at PSL sessions has a big impact on student participation. In sessions that have 40% of the class attending, students indicated that they choose to attend because their professor constantly told them to use all services available.

If you are curious about how this works, you can;

- host a mini-session in your class so you and your students can see how it works.
- attend a PSL session from another course
- visit our website for more information, including frequently asked questions

<https://services.viu.ca/centre-experiential-learning>