

Structured Study Group (SSG) Program F.A.Q.

What is SSG? Mastering first year subjects isn't easy, but there is help. The Law School's Structured Study Group (SSG) Program is designed to enhance and expand your opportunities to assess your understanding and actively apply what you learn in class. *These skills are CRITICAL for performing well on law school exams!* In bi-weekly structured study sessions, highly-qualified upper-division students ("Supplemental Instructors" or "SIs") work with first-year students in a cooperative and supportive environment to facilitate learning in the areas of Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, and Contracts in the Fall, and Criminal Law and Property in the Spring. General law school academic success strategies are addressed in bi-weekly Law School 101 sessions. SIs also provide one-on-one support to students in 1L classes.

Can't I just study more? You'll study plenty anyway. The SSG program helps you *study smarter*, not just harder.

Can't I just use study aids? Good study aids can help with major concepts, but SSG will show you how to *apply* them— more importantly, how *your professor* wants you to apply them on an exam!

Is it ok if I don't participate? SSG is purely voluntary, and is meant to *reinforce* and *enhance* the learning you are already doing. Some students find their stride without participating in SSG. If you find what works for you in another environment, that's fine! Try a few sessions early on, or go back closer to exams for extra preparation.

I got a copy of the outline from the top student in Contracts from last year. Why bother with SSG? Having the best outline doesn't mean you'll be able to write the best exam. In fact, the process of creating *your own outline* is the most effective way to learn and understand the material. Later in Fall semester, SIs will provide helpful guides for creating an outline that will work for you.

What if the way I learn best isn't the way law professors teach? Your supplemental instructors are preparing presentations to help you understand your own learning style, and to give you practical tips for adjustments you can make to get the most out of the law school teaching environment. To find out your learning style, try the on-line learning style inventory at:
<http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html>.

When are SSG sessions held? Check for an updated SSG schedule that will be posted on each section's Google Calendar.

What if I can't make it to every SSG session? Your SIs can provide you with materials or notes by request. Some also post session materials via TWEN or email.

So how do I participate? Sections will be contacted via email by their SIs to confirm when their first sessions will be held, usually in the second or third week of class.

More questions? Email to: lawdos@umn.edu