

Consultations

Consultation services on teaching and learning are a way for instructors to discuss their teaching with professional consultants. Consulting on instructional issues is available for individuals, small groups, departments, and colleges upon request. Our consultants will offer guidance on the following topics:

Instructional methods and innovative approaches to teaching and learning

Instructional design, e.g., alignment of goals, teaching methods, and assessments

Course materials including syllabi, assignments, exams and other forms of assessment, feedback on student work, grading practices, etc.

Classroom-related concerns

Feedback on student course evaluations

Diversity issues and integration of multicultural materials into curricula

The scholarship of teaching and learning

Resources and research on college teaching and learning, e.g., teaching first year students, teaching large classes, interdisciplinary teaching, college student development, civility in the classroom, active learning, integrative learning, designing capstone experiences, evaluating teaching, etc.

Related Services

Mid-Semester Student Feedback Sessions

Mid-semester student feedback sessions are available for instructors who want to assess and improve their teaching during the semester. A consultant will confer with the instructor by email, phone or in person before the feedback session to identify the instructors' course goals and specific questions or concerns. The consultant will observe part of a class. The instructor will then leave the classroom for 30-40 minutes and the consultant will elicit feedback by asking students to form small groups to answer the following three questions before reporting to the entire class:

- 1) What do you like about the course/instructor?
- 2) What do you think needs improvement?
- 3) What specific recommendations for improvement would you like to make?

Responses will be reported out to the entire class. The consultant will summarize the students' input and meet with the instructor before the next class session. Together they will review the student feedback and develop a plan for responding to student concerns and suggestions. The process does not require instructors to make changes, but they often chose to do so. Instructors can also request variations of this model.

Classroom Observations

Direct classroom observation is available to instructors who wish to have a consultant observe their teaching and provide feedback. Consultants will confer with instructors by email, phone or in person before the scheduled observation to identify the instructors' goals for the consultation and the class session. A confidential discussion follows the observation, allowing the consultant and instructor to discuss the class and its implications for instruction.

Videotaping and Consultations

Instructors have the option of scheduling a classroom videotaping. The tape can be viewed privately or with a consultant. A confidential discussion follows the viewing, allowing the consultant and instructor to discuss the class and its implications for instruction. The instructor must provide a blank VHS tape and agree to obtain student release forms provided by our office.

Scheduling a Consultation or Service

For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact Dr. Patty Payette,
Coordinator of Faculty Development Programs,
Office of Faculty and Organizational Development
432-2033 or facdevel@msu.edu

Consultations and services are conducted by professional instructional consultants with Ph.D. degrees and extensive experience in instructional consulting.