Does Our Institution Need A Consultant?
The Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) maintains a panel of consultants for referral to institutions as a proposal for gerontology instruction is being developed or as an existing program is evaluated. An external consultant can provide an objective assessment of your proposal or program based upon his/her broad range of experiences and expertise. Review the circumstances below that may assist in clarifying whether a consultant would be advisable.

1. Lack of Staff Time or Expertise
There may be individuals on your staff, either faculty members or administrators, who are capable of analyzing, for example, whether the conditions are right on your campus for the gerontology program to be expanded. However, these individuals may not have time to do that analysis properly because of other commitments.

It may also be that you have a specific area of concern with your proposed or existing program that no one on your staff has the expertise to solve. Examples might include exploring new areas of curriculum development or new sources of funding.

2. Need for Objective Assessment
An objective assessment may be needed because of problems with a proposed or existing program of instruction or as a result of budget cuts. There may be general agreement that changes need to be made, but several factors may complicate effective action:

- No one knows exactly what needs to be done or how to do it.
- Faculty and/or staff may be unable to look beyond their own interests to agree upon a course of action that would benefit the overall program.
- An external consultant can provide an objective assessment of your proposal or program based upon his or her broad range of experiences and expertise.
3. Lack of Consensus
It may be that extensive work has already been done on your campus to determine the direction of a proposed or existing program of instruction, with different groups coming to different conclusions about what that direction ought to be. A consultant could be helpful in developing a consensus for taking action.

4. Need for External Validation
It may be that none of these problems exist. You may have a proposal for a new gerontology program or to alter an existing program that addresses the needs on your campus and which will solve any problems that currently exist. However, to strengthen your proposal before presenting it to the administration or before beginning implementation, you would like an expert to analyze the situation to make sure that nothing has been missed or misinterpreted and to justify what is being proposed.

An analysis by an outsider would lend weight and objective experience to your proposal, especially an analysis coordinated by AGHE, a national organization representing gerontology programs in higher education.

Click here to obtain the Consultation Request Form.