Confidential Consultation about Teaching: Information

Since 1990 Teaching Resource Center staff members have consulted with teaching assistants from across the University about their teaching, knowing that self-reflection coupled with objective feedback enhances the overall teaching/learning endeavor. The TRC offers a variety of confidential consultations about teaching. A few of these are listed below.

- **Individual Consultation:** TRC consultants are happy to help you think through ways to improve your students' learning. Conversations might center around aspects such as course design, student evaluations, discussion-leading, lecturing, etc.
- **In-class Observation:** Utilizing a variety of observation techniques, TRC consultants can tailor an in-class observation so that instructors get specific and meaningful feedback about one or more aspects of their teaching.
- **Teaching Analysis Poll (TAP):** To discover students' mid-semester reactions to a class, a trained TRC staff member can poll your students about their perceptions of the course.
- **Videotape Analysis:** Upon request, trained TRC staff members observe or videotape a class and consult confidentially with an instructor about what works well and what could be improved in the classroom.

Once you have decided on the consultation type, submit your request online before the third week of each semester at [http://trc.virginia.edu/Consultations/Consultation_Request.htm](http://trc.virginia.edu/Consultations/Consultation_Request.htm). The TRC staff member will contact you to discuss the details of the consultation option you choose and to set up a meeting time. During the consultation, you are in the driver’s seat; the TRC staff member plays the role of an objective observer and a resource for information about effective teaching paradigms.

**Note:** All of the TRC’s services, including consultations are voluntary and strictly confidential. The number of consultations we conduct is limited and filled on a first-come first-served basis. TAPs are only conducted between the fourth and ninth weeks of the semester.

Confidential Consultation about Teaching: Questions

To get the most from the experience, we suggest that you reflect upon the following questions prior to your consultation:

- What goals do you have for your teaching, and how do you go about achieving those?
- In what ways do you help students learn?
- What concerns do you have about your teaching, and/or what problems have you encountered?
- What would you like to achieve through the consultation process?