



## **NASHIA Tip of the Month!**

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### **Program Evaluation and Research**

by:

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We all know that program evaluation and research are critically important to the work that we do. The results help to drive program development, better outcomes for the individuals we aim to support and funding for the work we do. However, the difficulty is having the expertise to develop strong program evaluation and research methodology, implementing these methodologies and interpreting the results. NASHIA offers the follow tip for addressing this needed component in the work we all do.

NASHIA recommends that program administrators consider partnering with the universities and colleges in your state to meet this need. Steps to take when partnering are:

1. Have a clear evaluation need or research questions, although a professor versed in evaluation and research can help frame these with you.
2. Contact programs within universities/colleges that fit your need e.g.; social work, psychology, political science, marketing, etc.
3. Meet with the professors who advise graduate student research and find out what the research/program evaluation requirements are for their students. In addition to research and program evaluation requirements, some students are interested in independent study credits and this may fit the bill!
4. Present to the class and drum up interest.
5. Graduate level or doctoral level students are recommended.
6. To be successful, it is best to have a clear commitment from both the student and a professor to help guide the process. Outline clear expectations.
7. Set regular meetings to review progress.
8. Have an end goal with clear timelines.

University and college students are an often untapped resource. If you can find a program, professor and a student with passion for the work you are doing, and with clear goals and time lines, you will find you can expand your ability to conduct program evaluation/research ten fold and for FREE!

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For further information contact NASHIA at [info@nashia.org](mailto:info@nashia.org).