

## TASK FORCE ON GRADUATE EDUCATION: SELECTIVE EXCELLENCE

### GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Provost Loh has developed a strategic initiative process to refocus *The Iowa Promise* for 2009-2014, and to assist with and formulate academic and budgetary planning. As part of this process, a Task Force on Graduate Education was formed and charged with articulating a strategic vision and setting priorities for selective excellence for graduate education at The University of Iowa. More information about the Task Force and its membership can be found on the Provost Office website at:

<http://provost.uiowa.edu/work/strategic-initiatives/>.

The Task Force on Graduate Education, which is focused on post baccalaureate programs administered by the Graduate College, requests information from each department/program to assist with the assessment process and to provide each department/program an opportunity to share their vision for excellence in graduate education in their discipline. The Task Force would like each department/program to submit a narrative statement addressing each of the topics below for their graduate degree programs as defined by degree major codes. (Attached is a listing of departments/programs with their respective codes noted in the right-hand column.) The narrative should be no more than 2-3 pages, single spaced,  $\geq 10$  pt font. Departments/programs with more than one degree major may use no more than one additional page for each additional degree major. Programs with one or more subtracks have the option of adding no more than one additional page to discuss the relationship of the subtracks to the degree major. Narratives are due in the Graduate College no later than September 15, 2009. (Send electronically to [caroline-mast@uiowa.edu](mailto:caroline-mast@uiowa.edu).)

To aid with this assessment, the Graduate College will supply each program with tabulated data, including number of fall applicants and enrollment (selectivity and yield); average GRE scores and GPAs; Graduate College fellowships awarded; and completion, time to degree, and placement of doctoral students. Thus far, the Graduate College has not collected similar data on completion, time to degree and placement for master's, AuD, DNP, or DPT degrees. Demographic data (gender, race/ethnicity) can be accessed in the *Profile of Students Enrolled at The University of Iowa*: <http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/profiles/default.aspx>.

**MISSION:** Please provide a mission statement articulating the goals for the graduate degree program as defined above. If more than one distinct degree program is offered (e.g., an MFA in addition to MA/PhD, or programs in two different disciplines), the mission statement should indicate how the programs are interrelated. The mission statement should address ways in which the graduate degree program contributes to the core instructional, research and outreach missions of The University of Iowa.

**ADMISSION PROCESSES AND CRITERIA:** Using the data provided by the Graduate College as a starting point, please assess the items below for each degree program offered (not for each track unless differences are significant):

- Student demand and recruitment
- Criteria for selection
- Success in enrolling the highest quality students admitted
- Success in enrolling a diverse student cohort
- What are the financial aid commitments made to incoming and continuing graduate students (e.g., level of commitment, length of time, etc)? Be sure to include, if appropriate, the role of externally funded grants, as well as teaching positions in meeting these commitments.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES:** In this section of the narrative, please address graduate student outcomes with respect to:

- Degree completion and time-to-degree

- Graduate student fellowships, awards, honors, and/or publications
- Graduate student placements (please indicate what the desirable placements are for graduates of the program)

**PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:** Please comment on the challenges and opportunities facing the program:

- What is the appropriate size of the graduate degree program, given the department's mission, its role in the education of our undergraduates, as well as research; the current FTE size, the composition of the faculty (that is, areas of expertise represented in the current faculty), and other resources available to the department?
- How does the program compare with other similar programs (e.g., National program rankings; comparison with peer group programs if available)
- Please supply a brief, candid analysis of the current strengths and weaknesses of the department's graduate degree program(s).
- Discuss opportunities for potential growth or reorganization to improve graduate program excellence.
- Are there other factors that you wish the Task Force to consider in its deliberations?

**CONCLUSIONS:** Please summarize the distinguishing features and outlook for the future of the graduate program.