Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Psych/Quant: Educational Psychology M.A., Ph.D. Program
Rating: Good

Educational Psychology is the scientific study of learning and teaching and the goal of the doctoral program is to prepare students for careers as scholars and teachers. The goal of the MA program is to provide K-12 teachers with a foundation in educational psychology so that they can become more effective teachers. This is a historically strong program, but is apparently undergoing transition. The Instructional Design and Technology (ID&T) program merged into Educational Psychology in 2003. The median TTD for Educational Psychology Ph.D. students was 5.7 yrs (03-08) and %completion was 78% (96-01). Many ID&T students continue to work full time outside of the university which is reflected in a high TTD of 10.1 yrs. While funding is not guaranteed, most students are able to obtain RA or TA funding. Student cohorts are not as strong as other subtracks, and appear to be declining. Declining faculty issues mirror the concern regarding student cohorts, but there are also programmatic issues that go beyond the number of faculty. The program faculty do seem to recognize that improvement is necessary, but implementation will be an issue.