Program: Teaching and Learning: Elementary Education M.A., Ph.D. Program
Rating: Additional Evaluation Required

T&L grants an MA and PhD in several subtracks, including Elementary Education. The MA in Elementary Education primarily focuses on language literacy and developmental reading. The MA in the latter leads to state licensure as a reading specialist and is widely pursued by elementary school teachers. At the PhD level, the focus is on preparing researchers and educators who will work in higher education settings. Although, these are important service degrees to schools in the state and region, the selectivity and diversity are not especially strong points, especially at the master's level. The 1996-2001 completion rate and the TTD of its PhD students is better than the average for the discipline at 64% and 6.0 yrs respectively, but the size of the program is small with only 9 graduates during that time period. The enrollment, especially at the master's level, has dropped by half in the last 5 years, primarily due to loss of faculty. Loss of faculty have also hurt external funding available to support graduate students. Since many of the students continue to work while pursuing their degree at both the MA and PhD levels, the question arises as to whether the provision of on-line versions or components of the program would expand enrollment possibilities and the delivery of a degree that reflects the desired outcome (non-research degree at the master's level). With the loss of faculty, along with decreasing student interest, there is concern that this program is no longer viable. It is the Task Force's understanding that changes to address the TF’s concerns are underway.