Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Film Studies M.A., Ph.D. Program
Rating: Additional Evaluation Required

The Film Studies PhD program in the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature trains students to become instructors and leading scholars of film history and theory. The MA program gives students substantial training in film analysis, history and theory in order to help them make a decision on their future career and only admits a few students each year. In fall of 2008, the program had 7 MA and 25 PhD students enrolled. The PhD program’s 64% completion is higher than the average for the arts and humanities, but the median TTD is the longest of all UI programs at 9.7 yrs. Placement of graduates over the past 10 years has been very good with 17 out of 19 graduates employed in academic institutions, 13 of whom are currently in tenure track positions. 5 years of funding is guaranteed, but increased competition from other grad programs and inability to match offers has reduced their ability to compete for new students. There is also a clear mismatch between the years of guaranteed funding and the TTD. The Task Force recognizes that Film Studies is an emerging field nationally and has important connections in the humanities at Iowa. However, due to the long TTD and funding issues, in order for the program to remain vital, the Task Force recommends additional evaluation of this program.