Program: Genetics Ph.D. Program  
Rating: High Quality

This is a very good interdisciplinary graduate program with 44 PhD students enrolled in fall 2008 (the largest of the interdisciplinary bioscience programs). Students are fully funded and the program has a T-32. Students have also been competitive in winning national awards (i.e., NRSA and American Heart Association fellowships). The median ttd of 6.3 yr and completion of 57% both are slightly below average for this disciplinary group. However, the program is under new leadership and program is focusing on TTD and % completion with slight improvement already evident. Likewise the program is aggressively working to improve diversity. The program has good placement in academia and research with about 80% of graduates initially going into postdoctoral positions. The Computational Genetics subtrack is unique and has generated increased interest in the program from applicants seeking this specific training. Sustained excellence of this IDGP depends on continued faculty participation and stable financial support. These and other challenges to interdisciplinary graduate programs are discussed in the narrative of the Task Force report.