Program: Geography M.A., Ph.D. Program  
Rating: High Quality

The Geography program is relatively small at about 30 students and 10 FTE faculty. Currently, selectivity is strong and admitted students have adequate funding. The program has made substantial revisions to its graduate program over the past few years that will take time to unfold in the program data. Data for the PhD cohort entering 1996-2000 show a TTD of 5.4 yrs, but a low completion rate of 32%, primarily because another 24% were still enrolled and another 24% left with their master's degree. The program feels the revisions should address these deficiencies over time. It should be noted however that a strong emphasis on geoinformatics, while a reasonable and timely initiative, might lengthen TTD somewhat, depending on the qualifications of admitted students. Placement of doctoral students occurs amongst a breadth of institutions and post-doctoral positions. The geoinformatics emphasis most likely will increase funding opportunities through NSF and NIH grants and will expand interdisciplinary work with Informatics and Urban and Regional Planning amongst other programs. The action plan was well constructed and should yield positive outcomes over time.