Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Health and Sport Studies M.A., Ph.D. Program
Rating: Additional Evaluation Required

HSS offers two subtracks, one in sport studies and the other in psychology of sport and physical activity. HSS is a modest sized, but diverse graduate program. The applicant pool is small and exhibits modest admission credentials compared to other social science programs on campus. Only 5 of the 11 PhD students who entered in 1996-2001 graduated. TTD of 5.3 years is good for that cohort, and the % doctoral completion at 45% is slightly above the social science average of 43% and below the overall UI average of 55%. Only 5 students graduated in the 5 year period 2003-09 and looking retrospectively at those students regardless of entry, their TTD was 6.7 yrs. Student support is provided by teaching assistantships through CLAS and the DCE for Health and Physical Activity Skills courses in the GER program. Some RA support and scholarships are also available. Doctoral placements are not at peer institutions, perhaps due to the fact that there are few similar programs nationally. The fact that few graduates are placed at research institutions indicates that there is question as to the viability of the program. While there is a connection to the undergraduate curriculum and to the needs of society, there does not appear to be a clear intellectual center to the graduate program. However, the program response indicates that sport studies will be housed in American Studies and the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity will be merged with graduate programs from Leisure Studies and Integrative Physiology in a new division of Integrated Health Sciences.