Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Leisure Studies M.A. Program
Rating: Good

Leisure Studies offers an MA degree to prepare leisure service professionals for placement in advanced management positions. Students can choose an emphasis in Recreational Sport or in Therapeutic Recreation. Financial support is limited but the stronger students may secure 1/4 time TA positions or graduate assistantships in the Athletics Department or Recreational Services. Most students complete the MA in 2 years. Student placement includes positions such as university athletic administration, professional sports, college football coaching, campus and municipal recreation, college athletic directors and YMCAs. Diversity is good with ~10% of the students from underrepresented minority groups. 92% of the Leisure Studies graduates pass the national certification exam. The proposed development of a PhD in Athletic Administration is discussed in the strategic assessment narrative. However, this new PhD is not feasible without additional faculty lines. A restructuring of Leisure Studies with components of Exercise Science may provide future opportunities.