Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Library and Information Science M.A. Program
Rating: High Quality

This master's program, accredited by the American Library Association, provides professional preparation for a career in libraries and information centers. The MA is the terminal degree for the professional field. Demand for this degree is high and thus the program can be very selective. About 35 new students are admitted each year. The program is participating in a grant funded project to attract diversity to Library and Information Science, and it has been able to attract a modest number of minority students. Graduate student funding is very good with ~50 students funded from federal grants. Completion and time to degree are good with most students completing in 2 years. Placement is primarily split between libraries in higher education and in public libraries. The program is small compared to other programs across the country; however, in 2009 the program was nationally ranked for the first time in USNWR. The program does face a leadership issue in 2010 when the current DEO steps down. To maintain its current high quality assessment, the program needs resources to recruit a new external director to bring strategic vision to the program; including the possibility of developing a distance learning option to place bound students.