Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Mathematics M.S., Ph.D. Program
Rating: High Quality

The Mathematics graduate program is a national leader in diversity efforts for recruiting underrepresented doctoral students in mathematics. The Department has received grants and awards recognizing the achievements in diversity. The graduate student population is 30% female, 25% international and 20% underrepresented minorities. The completion rate of 60% is above that for the disciplinary group which averaged 53%, and the TTD of 5.9 yrs is comparable with the disciplinary group. Financial support for PhD students is renewable for up to 6-7 years as long as students are making good progress to the PhD. It was not clear to the TF what the balance is between TA and RA support for the graduate students. 76% of those who graduated between 2003-08 are in academic positions with 46% on the tenure track. The TF noted that most students who are placed in academic positions are at 4 year colleges and regional master's institutions which likely have limited research opportunities. Efforts to get a higher percentage of graduates to take postdoctoral positions were described presumably as a method of preparing graduates for R1 faculty positions.