Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Mechanical Engineering M.S., Ph.D. Program
Rating: High Quality

The Mechanical Engineering program is a highly selective program that has increased its efforts to improve diversity of its graduate students through GAANN and GEM fellowships. The program supports approximately 89% of its students through TA or RAships, with over two-thirds on external grants and contracts. The Mechanical Engineering graduate program has a good doctoral completion rate of 75% with a TTD of 5.3 yrs. For the period of 1997-2008, 30% of the graduates accepted academic positions (faculty, postdoc, research) and 40% accepted positions in industry and 15% in government. The department is well-positioned to expand its activities in interdisciplinary research through the Center for Computer-Aided Design and the IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering and in selected Grand Challenge areas.