Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

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

The Microbiology graduate program had a total enrollment of 38 PhD and 2 MS students in Fall 2008. It receives ~50 applications yearly from a broad geographic area and enrolls 4-7 students each year. Selectivity is good as is the quality of the applicants. Diversity was identified as a weakness, but this was felt to be partly due to the competitiveness for the qualified minority students at other institutions. The program is a solid, well-funded program. Students are supported for up to 6 years, primarily from external grants. The TTD is 5.7 yrs with a completion rate of ~80%. Most students are placed in postdoctoral positions, many of whom are at highly prestigious research universities.