Program: Molecular Physiology and Biophysics M.S., Ph.D. Program
Rating: Good

The Molecular Physiology and Biophysics graduate program focuses on cellular and molecular mechanisms of physiological processes. It is a relatively small doctoral program admitting through the Biosciences portal (1 to 5 students per year over the past 5 years). The doctoral completion rate is 43% which is viewed as too low by the TF. This low completion possibly reflects earlier problems in department prior to the switch to Biosciences admissions. The median TTD of 5.6 yrs. is comparable to the average for the Biological/Biomedical sciences disciplinary group at UI. Graduate students are funded on external grants from faculty PI's and some from training grants. Students are increasing their efforts to apply for external funding; two students currently hold fellowships from the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health, respectively. Challenges for the program are identified as graduate student financial support through external funding and increasing the recruitment of URM students. The appointment of a new underrepresented faculty member may help with this goal. The TF felt that there is overlap of this program with other biomedical science programs and it might make sense to merge the program with other similar graduate programs.