Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Oral Science M.S., Ph.D. Program
Rating: High Quality

The Oral Science MS and PhD programs are small with approximately 2-8 students entering the program each year. The program has a T-32 Institutional Training grant which provides support for 2 MS and 4 PhD students/yr. Some additional stipends for MS students are provided by clinical departments. However, it is not clear from the Strategic Assessment whether all of the students are supported. While the majority of MS students go into private practice, a substantial fraction (~37%) entered into academic positions. For the PhD program, the median TTD is 5.6 yr (1996-2000 cohort) with an 85% completion. The majority (~87%) of the Oral Science PhD graduates go into academics. It was noted that this is one of the highest academic placement rates in the country for dental schools (data from NIDCR). This relatively small program fulfills a need to educate future dental school faculty.