Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

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

The Pharmacology graduate program had a total enrollment of 20 PhD students and 1 MS student in fall 2008. The program has had a longstanding T32 training grant. PhD completion is somewhat low at 50% compared to the 62% completion rate of the disciplinary group. 33% left with their master's, compared to 21% in the discipline. TTD of those who graduated is good at 5.1 yrs. Students are guaranteed full funding for the duration of their studies. Graduates initially find placement in postdoc positions in academic settings or in industry (pharmaceutical or biotech companies). The program ranked 11th in previous national rankings of Pharmacology programs. However, recent loss of faculty over the past 10 years may mean a lower ranking in the future. The recruitment of a new department head may provide the leadership needed for the department to thrive. There is concern that without growth in faculty numbers, problems with the delivery of the graduate curriculum will result with a subsequent drop in the program's ranking.