The Task Force conducted an evaluation of the graduate programs as described below and placed each program into one of five categories: Exemplary, High Quality, Good, Additional Evaluation Required, and Too New to Assess. Program evaluations were based on:

A. Information on all programs provided by the Graduate College which included size of the program, number of fall applicants and enrollment (selectivity and yield); average GRE scores and GPAs; Graduate College fellowships awarded; and completion, time to degree, and placement of doctoral students for specified time periods. (Appendix C)

B. Strategic assessments provided by each graduate program (Appendix D) that included information on:
   - Mission of the program
   - Admission processes and criteria, including recruitment, selectivity, diversity and financial support
   - Program outcomes, including degree completion, time to degree, fellowships, awards, honors, publications, and placements of graduate students
   - Program characteristics, including program size, comparison with other programs such as national rankings, centrality to the University, and perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats of the program and plans for the program’s future.

C. Discussion with Deans from each college

Based on these evaluations, each program was rated and placed into one of the following categories:

**Exemplary**: These programs stand out in terms of their overall quality and capacity to provide national/international prestige to The University of Iowa. Programs may be exemplary in different ways, depending upon their mission. Exemplary programs are generally rated highly in all areas.

**High Quality**: These programs are strong and have the potential to enhance the national reputation of The University of Iowa. These programs rate very well in most areas, but improvements could be made to strengthen the programs. In areas in which these programs are not as highly rated, plans should be created (if not already in place) to demonstrate improvement.

**Good**: These programs are doing well, but have issues that preclude a higher ranking. Clear plans for improving areas of relative weakness should be created (if not already in place) that will solidify the program’s reputation.

**Additional Evaluation Required**: These programs have significant problems related to two or more of the following without viable plans for improvement in the problem areas:
   - Incongruent mission, size and/or structure
   - Admission processes and criteria, such as recruitment, selectivity, diversity and financial support
   - Program outcomes, such as degree completion, time to degree, fellowships, awards, honors, publications, and placements
   - Program characteristics, such as program size, comparison with other programs, centrality to the University, and plans for the program’s future.

Some programs may be candidates for restructuring and/or merging with other related programs. Some programs in this category may become candidates for closure. Further evaluation of programs in this category should occur in consultation with the Collegiate Deans, the Graduate College Dean, the Provost and the program faculty.

**Too New to Assess**: These programs are either too new (< 5 yrs) to have significant student outcomes, or have recently undergone significant transitions that require time for the program to develop.

Copied from Task Force Report, Section II. Assessment of Graduate Programs