Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Spanish M.A, Ph.D. Program
Rating: High Quality

The Spanish graduate program has substantial connection to the delivery of undergraduate language instruction. The applicant pool, especially to the PhD program, is modest and selectivity is not great, but diversity, especially from an international pool, is adequate. Median TTD at 5.7 yrs and completion at 63% are very good relative to the disciplinary group. Funding appears to be adequate. The focus of the Spanish program is in literature and languages, with some connections to second language acquisition as well. 100% of Spanish graduates from 2003-05 are employed in academia with 86% in tenure track positions. Spanish is a strong program, with potential for future growth considering the number of faculty FTEs. Plans for an MFA in Spanish Creative Writing to train new generations of writers in Spanish is well underway with two recent faculty hires in this area. The proposed MFA would build on existing strengths at UI in creative writing through the International Writers Workshop and the International Writing Program. The Task Force supports the proposed MFA program.