Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence
Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Speech and Hearing Science Ph.D. Program
Rating: Exemplary

The Speech and Hearing Science program is a top-ranked PhD program that has been ranked #1 or 2 in US News & World Report for the past several years. The PhD program has a high completion rate of 79% and a strong median TTD of 4.4 yrs. Attracting minority applicants has been a priority in recent years and success has come through its "Bridges" program. Students receive 4 years of funding with acceptable progress. Some graduate student funding is provided by a T32 training grant. Graduates of the program are in high demand and many find academic faculty positions (66%, 19/29 of those who completed degrees since 1997). The department is offering a combined AuD/PhD option to ensure that the new AuD program does not deter qualified students from considering the PhD option.

Program: Speech Pathology and Audiology M.A. Program
Rating: High Quality

The mission of the MA in Speech Pathology and Audiology is to educate graduate students to provide clinical services in speech-language pathology. Currently, there are 39 students in the MA program. Time to complete the MA degree is 2 years, including one summer, but if a student lacks an undergraduate degree in speech and hearing prior to program entrance, an additional year of background coursework is required. The final semester typically consists of two placements in public schools, hospitals, or clinics. Most graduates are employed in public schools, often in Iowa.

Program: Speech Pathology and Audiology AuD Program
Rating: Too new to assess

The Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree program was started in 2003 in response to a change in the minimum requirement to practice audiology from an MA to an AuD. The goal of the program is to offer a post-baccalaureate degree that meets national accreditation standards and prepares professionals who have theoretical training and advanced clinical skills. This is an important clinical program with high demand and is the only program in state training audiologists. All indicators suggest that the program is on an upward trajectory.