Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence
Response to Program Rating for German

The Department is responsive to the suggestion in the Task Force report that a Master's program in German be developed to feed into the SLA doctoral program. The development of such a Master's program would also ensure that the MAT in German continue to be a viable opportunity available to students. As required by the College of Education guidelines for the MAT in Foreign Languages, degree recipients must complete 18 s.h. of graduate coursework in their chosen foreign language. Without a graduate program in German, the University will no longer be able to provide the coursework necessary for the MAT in this language.

The Task Force report does not take into account the presence on campus of 5 current PhD students in German, whose academic needs the Department continues to serve. Graduate students in German are a very important part of the fabric of the College and University and play an essential role in teaching the department’s undergraduate General Education language courses. Their presence on campus cannot necessarily be quantified in the terms in which the Task Force has conducted its evaluation. Graduate students in German have consistently won highly competitive teaching awards, in their capacity as teaching assistants, and have been leaders in the Graduate Student Senate and in the organization of the James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference.

The Department is open to working in new ways within new administrative structures such as a Division of Languages and Cultures in order to continue to strengthen the presence of German language and culture on campus. A newly reinstated Masters program in German at the University of Iowa would continue to play a crucial role in serving the entire state of Iowa.