

## Executive Summary

1) Graduate programs at The University of Iowa administered by the Graduate College were evaluated by an interdisciplinary cross-collegiate Task Force through a process that involved examination of data, input from the individual programs and the Collegiate Deans, and open forums. Programs were grouped into five categories and the results are summarized below:

- Exemplary (16 programs, 14.4%)
- High Quality (46 programs, 41.4%)
- Good (29 programs, 26.1 %)
- Additional Evaluation Required (14 programs, 12.6 %)
- Too New to Assess (6 programs, 5.4%)

2) The Task Force made specific recommendations for additional evaluation of a number of graduate programs with issues requiring attention. These programs may become candidates for restructuring and/or closure. Further evaluation of these programs should include deliberations between the Collegiate Deans, the Graduate College Dean, the Provost and the individual departments.

3) The Task Force made specific recommendations for restructuring of graduate programs. Restructuring was considered separately from the rating process because the Task Force felt that there were programs across all rating categories that could benefit from restructuring. In some cases restructuring was recommended for graduate programs that were not viewed as viable due to size or other factors and in other cases, restructuring was recommended based on redundancy and overlap in programmatic offerings. The Task Force recommends restructuring of graduate programs in several areas, including:

- Languages and closely related disciplines
- Health, sport and recreation disciplines
- Biological science programs

Details of the restructuring are provided in the full report. The Task Force also recommended the relocation of several graduate programs to different colleges.

4) The Task Force considered other issues related to improving the quality of graduate education at The University of Iowa. The Task Force makes the following recommendations for strategic investments:

- **Financial support**- maintain competitive stipends and the tuition scholarship program; enable all graduate students to have both teaching and research assistantship experiences; prioritize Graduate College Fellowship and Strategic Investment Funds (SIF) programs to align with Task Force evaluations; increase private fundraising on behalf of graduate programs
- **Interdisciplinary graduate programs (IDGPs)**- the majority of these programs should continue to report to the Graduate College and additional financial and administrative support should be provided to the Graduate College to serve this role.
- **Graduate recruitment and admissions**- coordination and potential centralization of admission activities currently performed by the Office of Admissions, the Graduate College and individual programs.
- **Diversity**- continued emphasis on diversity, focusing future efforts on recruitment, mentoring and retention.