

Doctoral Program Review

Cumulative Status Report

Background

The Doctoral Program Assessment Plan was released in April 2008. This document provides a cumulative status report on actions spurred by the Doctoral Program Assessment Plan. It begins with a summary of activities during Year 2 (2009-2010) and finishes with a recap of Year 1 (2008-09) activities.

Summary of Activities—Year 2, 2009-2010

In 2009-10, the Graduate School reports that 1) yields are up of students awarded Graduate School fellowships with enhanced stipends (from programs designated as high-quality or strong); 2) significant merging has occurred among departments and graduate programs in Arts and Sciences (especially the former College of Biological Sciences), the College of Engineering, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine; 3) a Program Council has been established to move ahead with the recommendations made by the task forces on the Environmental Sciences and Life Sciences; and 4) the Graduate School is developing a tool to assist graduate programs with regular collection of doctoral placement information.

1) Yield -- Graduate School Fellows

The doctoral assessment plan recognized a need for enhanced stipends to compete for the most highly sought-after prospective students. Starting in Autumn Quarter 2009, stipends were increased by \$3000 for Graduate School fellowship winners in programs designated as high-quality or strong.

- The acceptance rate of fellowship offers among the high-quality and strong programs increased by nearly a third.¹

2) Changes among the graduate programs

Numerous mergers/alignments have taken place that consolidate graduate programs and resources in ways that are expected to create more visibility, better support for research and interdisciplinary activities, and greater administrative support and administrative efficiencies.

Arts and Sciences: The faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry voted to merge to form a new department with a single graduate program. Molecular Genetics and Plant, Cellular, and Molecular Biology will also merge. Entomology has been split, with two thirds of the faculty moving to the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and one third moving to Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology.

Education and Human Ecology: The College of Education and Human Ecology has put forward a proposal for an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Teaching and Learning Degree. This proposed graduate degree responds to the doctoral assessment finding that the college needs a way to focus its Ph.D. on research while providing a graduate track focused on practice. This proposed degree provides an opportunity for educators with master's degrees to further their professional development through an educational

¹ In 2008, 408 fellowships were awarded in the high-quality and strong programs, and 146 were accepted, representing a 35% acceptance rate. In 2009, 429 fellowships were awarded, and 193 were accepted, representing a 45% acceptance rate. In 2010, 372 fellowships were awarded, and 169 were accepted, representing a 45% acceptance rate.

program that provides a strong grounding in and application of theory and research. The Education Specialist proposal is nearing approval from the Graduate Council. At that point, as with all new degree proposals, it will be reviewed by CAA, RACGS, University Senate, Ohio State Board of Trustees, and Ohio Regents.

Engineering: Aerospace Engineering has joined Mechanical Engineering. The graduate program in Welding Engineering has joined Materials Science and Engineering.² Geodetic Science is being divided between the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences and the College of Engineering.

Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences: The graduate programs in Soil Science and Rural Sociology have moved into the School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Veterinary Medicine: The three graduate programs have been merged into one graduate program called Comparative and Veterinary Medicine.

3) Program Council for the Life Sciences and Environmental Sciences

Background: The top-level goals for the activities involving the life and environmental sciences are:

- to increase visibility for Ohio State efforts and
- to identify major external funding opportunities in these areas.

The task forces for life sciences and environmental sciences released their reports in summer 2009. The task forces made the following recommendations:

- Eliminate administrative and budget barriers between departmental and interdisciplinary graduate programs (IGPs)
- Change culture of deans/chairs/faculty to recognize and support IGP efforts
- Focus on major external funding opportunities
- Strengthen existing interdisciplinary graduate programs and nurture new teams
- Increase visibility of Ohio State's research efforts and academic programs via web-based portals
- Utilize improved networking and knowledge management tools

Program Council: A Program Council was established in Spring 2010 to lead these efforts. The Program Council is comprised of deans of colleges with significant activities in these areas: Joe Steinmetz, Arts and Sciences; Bob Brueggemeier, Pharmacy; Bobby Moser, Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Lonnie King, Veterinary Medicine, Chip Souba, Medicine; Greg Washington, Engineering, and Carol Whitacre, Senior Vice President for Research. The chair of the Program Council is Pat Osmer, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School.

Current Activities: The Program Council has met several times over spring quarter, and faculty are being invited to serve on faculty advisory committees. Next steps include meeting with faculty advisory committee members, establishing scientific advisory groups for environmental sciences and life sciences, identifying an interim director, and conducting a search for an executive director.

² The Aerospace/Mechanical Engineering joiner was approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2010, and the Welding/Materials Science and Engineering joiner was approved by the Board of Trustees in February 2010.

Summary of Activities—Year 1, 2008-09

1) University-level actions

- Bolstered recruitment of high-quality graduate students by increasing stipends by \$3,000 for four years for Graduate School fellowship winners in programs designated as high-quality and strong.
- Established task forces for life sciences and environmental sciences. Initial task force findings included:
 - Eliminating administrative and budget barriers between departmental and interdisciplinary graduate programs (IGPs)
 - Changing culture of deans/chairs/faculty to recognize and support IGP efforts
 - Focusing on major external funding opportunities
 - Strengthening existing interdisciplinary graduate programs and nurturing new teams
 - Increasing visibility of Ohio State research efforts and academic programs via web-based portals
 - Utilizing improved networking and knowledge management tools

2) College-level actions included

- All graduate programs in the reassess/restructure category were evaluated by their home colleges.
 - The College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice was approved by the Board of Regents in spring 2008, which supports the need to differentiate between graduate students interested in pursuing clinical practice or clinical research and those interested in pursuing independent research in the Ph.D. degree program.
- Action was taken on all the programs recommended for disinvestment or elimination
 - Comprehensive Vocational Education has been deactivated
 - Rehabilitation Services track has been closed
 - Technology Education track has been closed
 - Soil Science has been converted to a track in Environment and Natural Resources
 - Welding Engineering (as reported above)

3) Doctoral program review catalyzed

- a major reorganization of the College of Biological Sciences
- a major reorganization of the College of Engineering