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Closure of the Global Disaster Nursing Graduate Certification Program and the Global Disaster Studies Certificate Program (SACSCOC Response)

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June 3, 2015

Dr. Mary Lewnes Albrecht
Associate Vice Provost
The University of Tennessee
527 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996-0152

Dear Dr. Albrecht:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2015, to the Commission regarding the closure of two Graduate Certificate programs in Global Disaster Nursing and in Global Disaster Studies, effective fall 2014.

Because the last students will complete the 12 semester hour Global Disaster Nursing program in spring 2015, the assumed closure date is fall 2014, the date at which no new students were admitted. The Global Disaster Studies program has no enrolled students; the assumed closure date is fall 2014. Both programs are closing due to low enrollment.

Enrolled students have been notified of the closure and advised of the impact on their plan of study. All students are expected to complete all requirements by the end of the spring 2015 semester. The closure will not disrupt students' planned completions. Staff and faculty are apprised; the faculty voted to close the programs in early 2015, through established governance processes. Students are not expected to incur any additional costs as a result of the closures. Through spring 2015, 1.5 faculty FTEs support the programs; afterwards one faculty member will retire and the remaining faculty will continue to support other related programs and courses. There are no staff implications.

For future program closures, please refer to "Procedure Three" of the *Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions – Policy Statement* for information, timing, and procedural requirements for securing closure approvals from the Commission.

The Commission approves the closure of the Graduate Certificate programs in Global Disaster Nursing and in Global Disaster Studies and requests no additional information.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/KWS:efk

cc: Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley