



February 20, 2025

Dr. Michelle Madden
Substantive Change Office
SACS Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

Re: Closure of the Graduate Certificate in Food Safety

Dear Dr. Madden,

Please accept this letter as late notification of the closure of an existing graduate certificate in Food Safety, effective August 19, 2024.

Admissions to the graduate certificate in Food Safety ended August 19, 2024, and the final student completed the program in spring 2024. With no enrolled or lapsed students (including none in fall 2025), no student communication plan is needed; prospective students are advised that the program is no longer offered.

The faculty coordinator for the Food Safety graduate certificate left at the end of AY 2023–2024, and department faculty and advising staff were informed of the closure in spring 2024. With no dedicated marketing support, program information was removed from the department website in 2025, and no community or industry partners will be contacted because none exist. With no students currently enrolled, the department will not offer a teach-out option at another institution. Required coursework remains available through other programs, and the closure will not affect faculty or staff employment.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Hartman
SACSCOC Liaison

Cc: Donde Plowman, Chancellor
John Zomchick, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
Beth Avery Foster, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Ellen McIntyre, Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

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