



February 20, 2026

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

Re: Program Closure - PhD in Educational Psychology and Research

Dear Dr. Madden,

Please accept this letter as late notification of the closure of an existing PhD in Educational Psychology and Research, effective August 19, 2024. We are in the process of finalizing documentation of changes made to our process for a SACSCOC substantive change policy and procedures review submission.

Admissions to the PhD in Educational Psychology and Research ended August 19, 2024. Because the program never enrolled any students, no communications to current or lapsed students are needed. Prospective students are advised that the program is no longer offered, and the department website had noted the planned closure at least two years in advance.

Department faculty and staff, admissions, and advising were informed of the PhD in Educational Psychology and Research closure during routine business meetings beginning in fall 2022, as the department began merging with the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. With no community or industry partners, no external outreach is planned. Because no students ever enrolled, no teach-out option will be offered. Required coursework remains available through other continuing 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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