SACS COC

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

August 13, 2013

Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor
The University of Tennessee
527 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996-0152

Dear Dr. Cheek:

Thank you for your letter of notification, dated April 2, 2013, regarding the University of Tennessee's intent to close the Industrial and Organizational Psychology Ph.D. program, effective fall 2013.

The decision to close this program was based on the following factors:

- Highest cost per student
- Low enrollment
- Annual graduates below Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) benchmark
- Higher than average time-to-completion
- Weak placement of program graduates

Planning for program closure began in 2009-2010. Hence, students enrolled in the program have either completed the program or have completed all coursework and are enrolled in dissertation credit hours. Students have been personally advised of the need to remain continuously enrolled and register for dissertation credit each semester until the time of completion of the program. Dissertation credit course IOPSY600 will continue to be offered until the remaining students complete requirements for the degree. No new students have enrolled into this program.

Four faculty associated with the program have, respectively: retired; transferred to a different college within the institution; assumed a tenured position at another institution; remained an Associate Dean in the College of Business Administration within the institution.

The Commission on Colleges approves the closure of the Industrial and Organizational Psychology Ph.D. program, will include this information in the institution's files, and requests no additional information from you.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/TG:efk

cc: Dr. Mary Lewnes Albrecht, Associate Vice Chancellor
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley