



January 17, 2025

Dr. Donde Ashmos Plowman
Chancellor
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
800 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-0180

Dear Dr. Plowman:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

Program Closure

Graduate Certificate in Grief, Loss, and Trauma

Submission date:

10/31/2024

Intended Implementation date:

12/1/2023

Case ID:

SC028888

The University of Tennessee Knoxville proposes to close the Graduate Certificate in Grief, Loss, and Trauma. The teach-out plan was deferred for the following additional information on November 12, 2024:

1. Clarification of closure date
2. Clarification of any financial impact on students.

The response to the deferral was received on November 19, 2024.

As clarified in the deferral response, the last student was admitted to the program December 1, 2023. The effective date of program closure has been updated in the accreditation cycle to indicate the date submitted through deferral. As of fall 2024, 18 students were enrolled in the certificate.

The interim department head emailed all students enrolled in the certificate to advise them of the need to complete COUN 560 for certificate completion and that the course would not be offered fall 2025 or beyond. All students enrolled in the certificate who had not completed COUN 560 attended advising meetings with counselor education faculty members fall 2023 and spring 2024. The interim department also made announcements to all students enrolled in the certificate prior to registration spring 2024 and fall 2024.



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The department has communicated with current, lapsed, and prospective students, as well as faculty, staff, and program partners. The department added a note on its website regarding the program closure beginning in August 2023.

Also as clarified in deferral, students will incur no additional charges or expenses as a result of the program closure.

As affirmed no faculty or staff are impacted by this closure.

Note: Approval is effective as of the date of the Board of Trustees action (which is the date of this letter). In this case, the approval date is after the institution's stated actual implementation date. Note that this does not constitute retroactive approval: the institution's substantive change described herein is approved as of the date of Board's action, not as of the earlier actual implementation date.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves the late closure of the Graduate Certificate in Grief, Loss, and Trauma.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. J. Matthew Melton at (404) 994-6553 or via email at mmelton@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belle S. Wheelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW:MAC/sb

cc: Dr. Heather G. Hartman, Associate Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, The
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Dr. J. Matthew Melton, Vice President, SACSCOC