



October 28, 2025

Dr. Stephen Pruitt
President
SACS Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

Re: Closure of the Undergraduate Certificate in Horticultural Therapy

Dear Dr. Pruitt,

Please accept this letter as late notification of the closure of an existing undergraduate certificate in Horticultural Therapy, effective August 18, 2025.

Students are no longer being admitted to the undergraduate certificate in Horticultural Therapy as of August 18, 2025. There were no students enrolled in this program for fall 2025; however current students in the department were contacted via email regarding the program closure. Students considering the undergraduate certificate in Horticultural Therapy were contacted about the closure via email. Any prospective students seeking advising about the program are advised that the program is no longer being offered. There are no students with lapsed enrollment.

Dr. Derrick Stowell, the former program administrator who has left the institution, informed enrolled students and admissions of the program closure. There were no other advisors for the program. Faculty members met on June 16, 2025, to discuss the future of the program. It was decided to discontinue the program due to the departure of the program's director and primary faculty member. UT Knoxville's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee voted on the closure of the program on October 14, 2025. Undergraduate Council will vote on the closure today. Faculty Senate will vote on the closure on November 17, 2025. There are no community and industry partners to contact about this closure.

The department will not provide teach-out options for student to complete the undergraduate certificate in Horticultural Therapy program at another institution, as there are no enrolled students. Faculty and staff employment will not be affected.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Hartman".

Heather Hartman
SACSCOC Liaison

Cc: Donde Plowman, Chancellor
John Zomchick, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
Beth Avery Foster, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
David White, Dean, Herbert College of Agriculture