



11-17-2023

Request for Additional Information-Program Closure Approval- Master of Public Policy and Administration

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

November 17, 2023

Dr. Kevin Sightler
Substantive Change Office
SACSCOC Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

Hi Kevin,

We were requested to submit additional information about the closure of the MPAA program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Please see answers to your questions below:

1. How were students, faculty, and staff informed of the closure of the program (and subsequent restructuring)? Students enrolled in the Master of Public Policy and Administration program were notified via email and in person during advising appointments of the program's impending closure by the director of the program who then met with students along with the graduate program advisor to discuss their individual paths forward. The MPPA program was split into two degree options for matriculation (Master of Public Affairs and Master of Public Policy). Faculty were involved in the departmental discussions regarding the program changes and staff were informed in email communications. There is no negative impact on faculty or staff who will all continue to work in the Baker School as before.
2. Will all requirements of the MPPA be offered until all students graduate? Is there an estimated deadline for students to complete the program? The coursework required to complete the MPPA will continue to be offered, as they are required or elective in one or both resulting degree programs.
3. Will students incur any extra costs (fees, expenses) due to the closure? There are no additional costs to students because of the closure.
4. Will there be a teach-out agreement with another institution as a result of the teach-out? There is no need for a teach-out agreement. Students have three possible paths forward at the institution (the MPPA, MPA, or MPP).

Thank you for allowing us to submit this information. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks much,

Dr. Kevin Sightler
MPAA Closure
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Hartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Heather Hartman, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness
and SACSCOC Liaison
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