SACSCOC™

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

May 22, 2020

Dr. T. Rhett Brown
President
Wingate University
315 East Wilson Street
P. O. Box 159
Wingate, NC 28174

Dear Dr. Brown:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:
Program Closure
Bachelor Science (B.S.) in Athletic Training
Submission date:
12/16/2019
Implementation date:
8/1/2019
Case ID:
SC009567

SACSCOC considers a program to be closed when the institution no longer admits students to the program, regardless of the time identified to teach out students in the program. The institution stopped admitting students to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Athletic Training, effective fall 2019, which is considered the closure date for the program. Program closure was in response to changes in the requirements to be licensed as an athletic trainer. The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) established the master's level as the degree required for athletic training, and baccalaureate programs may not admit, enroll, or matriculate students into an athletic training program effective fall 2020.

Faculty, administrators, and staff in the School of Sports Sciences, and particularly the Program Coordinator for Athletic Training, were involved in the decision to close the program following the new requirements. Classes in the major will be offered to currently enrolled students through May 2022, and a schedule of courses offered by semester/year was provided. Students were informed of the closure by the program director in each cohort class, as verified by email May 4, 2020. Students were also advised of other degree options during advising appointments. Students will be able to complete all degree requirements without additional expenses as long as they continue to meet the minimum academic requirements to remain in the program.

Also as confirmed by email, the program director and a full-time faculty member provided information to the Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Professional Studies on the decision to end the baccalaureate program versus transition to a master's degree. While the institution does not use the term *tenured* faculty, contract faculty are offered a secure continuing contract (analogous to tenure) or a terminal one-year contract following completion of their sixth contract period. Secured faculty will continue to teach their same loads in a closely aligned discipline. Current adjunct faculty are not impacted by the program closure.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves the closure of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Athletic Training.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Crystal A. Baird at 404-679-4501 or via email at cbaird@sacscoc.org.

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

Sincerely,

Belle S. Wheelan

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/MAC:lp

cc: Eric Franklin Schneider, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Crystal A. Baird