

December 11, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Obesity Prevention and Weight Management

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the Graduate Certificate in Obesity Prevention and Weight Management.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2022 the Board of Trustees approved a new Graduate Certificate in Obesity Prevention and Weight Management. This was a 12-credit interdisciplinary program offered through InCHIP (the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy). The learning objectives of the program were consistent with training recommendations outlined by the Association of the American of Medical Colleges and reflected best practices in obesity training programs. The graduate certificate curriculum recognized the interdisciplinary nature of obesity and offered students concentrated exposure to foundational concepts and opportunities to dive deeper into broad topic areas such as nutritional, exercise, and behavioral sciences, as well as relevant policy.

Projections for the program were that it would have 5-10 students enrolled. However, nearly two years after approval, the program has not received any inquiries or applications from prospective students. Crucially, several key faculty are no longer at UConn or available to teach the courses offered through the certificate program. Although this area may be revisited for future program development, at present, the lack of demand coupled with lack of available faculty support means that the program is being closed.

As there are no students in the program, no teach out plan is needed. Applications to the program had already been suspended. The closure will be effective in the fall 2025 term.