

December 3, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Program Closure: Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health.

RESOLUTION:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to close the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health, offered by the Department of Allied Health in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the University to take all necessary steps to implement the closure of this program in accordance with University policies and procedures and all relevant accreditation and regulatory requirements."

BACKGROUND:

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health was approved in August 2011. First offered under the Center for Continuing Studies, the certificate was designed specifically for non-degree students. It was developed to meet the needs of individuals employed in occupational safety and health and related fields, or those transitioning into these areas of employment. Completion of the Occupational Safety and Health Certificate provided Human resource and occupational safety and health professionals with the knowledge necessary for increased effectiveness, upward mobility, and advancement.

The Certificate has been taught by faculty in the Department of Allied Health Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources. The Certificate is awarded by The Graduate School. Enrollment has declined in the last five years. From AY 18/19 through AY 20/21 the Certificate had between 12 and 16 students enrolled. This declined to four or less from AY 22/23 to the current term. The decline in enrollment coincides with the pending retirement of the program director, who is also the primary instructor for required courses.

A decision was made to close the program in AY 24/25 and admissions to the program were suspended. As detailed in the teach-out plan provided by the program, the program communicated with the final three students enrolled to work with them on planning the courses needed to complete the program. Where students have responded to communication, plans have been made to ensure they can complete the program. It is anticipated that all students who have responded to communication from the program will graduate in AY 25/26.

Closure of Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health

Department: Allied Health Sciences

School/College: College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources

Last term of Admission: fall 2024

Location/Modality Impacted: Online and in-person

The decision to discontinue the program is prompted by the pending retirement of the director of the program and who is also a primary instructor of program courses,

Email was sent to Graduate School on January 28, 2025 notifying of program closure. Grad School took action to prevent submission of applications.

Email was sent to CETL on January 28, 2025 to modify program website to state that the program is no longer accepting students

- ✓ Two (2) students currently matriculated; one is graduating Dec 2025, one will graduate Spring 2026
- ✓ For student graduating Spring 2026, courses that will allow the student to complete the program have been selected and will be instructed spring 2026. Student made aware via email 10/06/2025 of the two courses needed spring 2026.
- ✓ A third student registered GRAD 5997 fall 2025: 3-year window to complete program expired at end of spring 2025 semester. Student emailed 1/28/2025 and informed of the need to complete the program within allotted 3 years. No response to email though one was requested.

RESOLUTION RE:
PROGRAM CLOSURE: POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approves the recommendation to close the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health, offered by the Department of Allied Health in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the University to take all necessary steps to implement the closure of this program in accordance with University policies and procedures and all relevant accreditation and regulatory requirements.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution was duly authorized by the Board of Trustees on December 3, 2025.

Bryan K. Pollard, Secretary

Date