



July 12, 2024

Dr. Michael Amiridis
President
University of South Carolina - Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Dr. Amiridis:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:
Program Closure
Master of Nurse Anesthesia
Submission date:
5/13/2024
Intended Implementation date:
8/1/2021
Case ID:
SC026773

The University of South Carolina Columbia requests the closure of the Master of Nurse Anesthesia (M.N.A.). The request was deferred for the following additional information on June 2, 2024:

1. Did not explain how affected parties – students, faculty, and staff – will be informed (notified) of the impending closure.
2. Did not explain whether the students subject to the teach-out plan will incur additional charges or other expenses because of the teach-out and, if so, how the students will be notified.
3. Did not provide a description of how faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment.

The response to the deferral was received on June 6, 2024. The implementation date was updated after discussing it with the college liaison. The documentation has been added to the case.

The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, the program's accrediting agency, required that all programs transition to the doctoral level by January 1, 2022, and thereafter, all students matriculating into an accredited program must be enrolled in a doctoral program.



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At the time the decision to close was made, students were enrolled in the Master of Nurse Anesthesia (M.N.A.). The doctoral program in Nurse Anesthesia (DNAP) was implemented in Summer 2021, and the last student enrolled in the MNA program has graduated.

Students were informed of the program closure and implementation of the new program and provided with options to complete it. Students in the current program were able to complete it in the summer of 2021. There are currently no students in the program. All new students are enrolled in the Nurse Anesthesia (DNAP) doctoral program.

An agreement with other institutions is not necessary. No student will incur additional costs.

Faculty and staff will not be impacted by the program closure. All faculty and staff that supported the MNA program have been redeployed to assist with the doctoral program in the doctoral program in Nurse Anesthesia (DNAP) that was implemented in summer 2021.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves the late closure of the Master of Nurse Anesthesia (M.N.A.).

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Kelli V. Randall at 404-994-6545 or via email at krandall@sacscoc.org.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/DDG:lp

cc: Mr. Donald Miles, Executive Director Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics,
University of South Carolina - Columbia
Dr. Kelli V. Randall, Vice President, SACSCOC