

**Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering
Program Closure**

The Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering is a 12-credit hour program within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the J.B. Speed School of Engineering. The program has experienced low enrollment for the previous five (5) academic years with only six (6) total students being enrolled during that timeframe. Consequently, the program was identified for closure through the University of Louisville's (UofL) Academic Program Review process, and the faculty of the J.B. Speed School of Engineering concurred with the recommendation.

Commensurate with the J.B. Speed School of Engineering By-Laws, the proposed closure of the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering has attained the following approvals:

1. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty approved the closure on November 18, 2024.
2. The J.B. Speed School of Engineering Graduate Education Committee approved the closure on December 5, 2024.
3. The J.B. Speed School of Engineering Academic Policies and Procedures Committee approved the closure on January 21, 2025.

I. Enrollment and Certificate Conferrals

Academic Year	Enrollment¹	Certificate Conferrals¹
2019-2020	1	2
2020-2021	2	2
2021-2022	2	1
2022-2023	1	2
2023-2024	0	1
2024-2025	0	N/A

¹ The fall term is UofL's official reporting semester for enrollment data, and the certificate can be conferred to individuals who completed the coursework during the spring and summer terms, which explains the discrepancy between enrollments and certificate conferrals.

II. Students

As of the Spring 2025 semester, the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering only has one (1) student currently enrolled. The student is on track to complete her certificate by the end of the Spring 2025 semester. The student will be permitted to complete the graduate certificate program through the Fall 2025 semester if necessary.

III. Notification of Faculty, Staff, and Community

The affected faculty are aware of the program closure, as they initially approved it on November 18, 2024. The faculty and leadership within the J.B. Speed School of Engineering are also aware of the proposed closure, as they have approved the action through their unit curricular processes. The courses required for the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering are also courses taught within the Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Civil Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.) in Civil Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Civil Engineering, so the closure of the graduate certificate program is not anticipated to have any impact upon faculty teaching loads or necessitate faculty to be redeployed.

Once the program is officially closed with SACSCOC, the Vice Provost/SACSCOC Liaison will notify all relevant parties (e.g., registrar, graduate school, advisers, academic deans, etc.) of the program closure via email, and the academic catalog will be updated to reflect the program closure with the program being removed from the Graduate Academic Catalog for the 2025-2026 academic year. Finally, the certificate program did not utilize any external community partners for externships, co-ops, recruitment, or other outreach and experiential learning efforts, so no communication is required to communicate the closure to external partners.

IV. Current, Lapsed, and Prospective Student Communication Plan

The Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering currently has no applicants for the 2025-2026 academic year, so no communication is necessary for this population. One student has expressed interest in the program from outside UofL. The Director of Graduate Education will email this student to notify them of the closure and encourage them to apply for other programs within the J.B. Speed School of Engineering. Additionally, since the certificate program is most commonly completed as part of another graduate degree program, an email notification will be distributed to all current graduate students within the J.B. Speed School of Engineering to notify them that the graduate certificate is no longer being offered by the academic unit. Additionally, the certificate program will be removed from the graduate application and graduate academic catalog.

The one (1) student currently enrolled is already aware that the program is proposed for closure given previous communications with the students. The Department Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering will send a formal notice via email once the certificate is officially closed to notify the student that she has through the Fall 2025 semester to complete the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering program. The department anticipates the student completing the program by the end of the Spring 2025 semester given her current academic progress.

Finally, no students have lapsed enrollment that are eligible to return to the certificate program under the continuous enrollment policy published in the Graduate Academic Catalog. Consequently, no notice of closure needs to be sent to this population.

V. Effective Date

The last term students will be admitted to the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering program is the Spring 2025 semester. (Note: no students have applied for admission at the time of submission of the substantive change.) The program will be closed to subsequent enrollment effective for the Summer 2025 term (May 5, 2025).