



University Council

April 15, 2022

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2021-2022

Susan Sanchez, Chair

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Law – Randy Beck

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Public and International Affairs – Leah Carmichael

Public Health – Allan Tate

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Shannon Hostetter

Graduate School – Wendy Ruona

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Matthew Jue

Graduate Student Representative – Sarah Burns

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to terminate the major in Special Education (M.A.T.) on the Griffin campus only will be an agenda item for the April 22, 2022, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: January 28, 2022

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Program (Major and Degree): Special Education (M.A.T.) – Griffin campus only

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens and Griffin

Deactivation or Termination? Termination of the Griffin campus only

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2022

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Fall 2020

Last date students will graduate from this program: Spring 2022

Program Abstract:

The major in Special Education (M.A.T.) leads to initial certification for students who hold undergraduate degrees in other fields and who do not hold a teaching certification.

1. State the reasons for terminating the program, and provide copies of any relevant documents.

This proposal is to terminate the major in Special Education (M.A.T.) at the Griffin campus. This program was proposed in 2007 to provide an accessible program in the metro-Atlanta area for students who wished to pursue initial preparation and teacher certification in special education at the master's level. The rationale for the inclusion of the major at the Griffin campus was a response to the expressed needs of eight school superintendents from the Griffin Regional Education Service Agency who noted the need for teachers with such preparation to support P-12 students in their districts. Since its offering, the program was coordinated by two career-track faculty members, both of whom retired over the last two years. Despite efforts to augment the number of students enrolling in the program through marketing and advisement campaigns, student enrollment has dropped substantially, resulting in course enrollments that do not meet the university minimums. At the same time, the department offers the M.A.T. on the Athens campus. The current student enrollment for the Athens program in spring 2022 is 9.

Enrollment in the Griffin program from fall 2016 to fall 2021 is displayed below. Currently, there are no active special education faculty members on the Griffin campus. There is one remaining student who is completing the student teaching capstone and who will graduate in spring 2022.

Major	Fall 16	Fall 17	Fall 18	Fall 19	Fall 20	Fall 21
Special Education (MAT-Griffin)	0	0	0	1	1	1

Therefore, given lack of enrollment and no in-person faculty support for the program on the Griffin campus, the department is proposing to terminate the option at the Griffin campus.

2. What will be done to minimize the impact of the termination of the program upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty and staff involved? Include specific information on: a) how faculty and staff will be notified of the termination, and b) how faculty and staff will be reallocated.

In spring 2022, the one remaining student in the program was supported by a faculty member who oversaw the completion of the student teaching course. No new students applied and were admitted in

fall 2021. No faculty in Special Education are present on the Griffin campus. Because the college provided additional instructional support through a part-time faculty member to see the final student through the program, there is no perceived impact on the faculty who are teaching on the Athens campus. There are currently no plans to recruit and hire additional faculty for the Griffin campus. One staff member that is present on the Griffin campus has had duties reassigned to support other programs at that campus.

3. What will be done to insure that termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

The Athens program has standard enrollment for an initial teacher preparation program at the master's level. There is no perceived impact on this program.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Termination of Special Education (M.A.T.) at the Griffin Campus

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2022

Department:

- Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education Department Head, Dr. Bethany Hamilton-Jones, 1/28/2022

School/College:

- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 1/28/2022
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 2/22/22

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 3/17/22