



University Council

February 9, 2024

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2023-2024

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Graduate Student Representative – Kelsey Wohlford

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to offer the existing major in Special Education (M.Ed.) online will be an agenda item for the February 16, 2024, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN ONLINE PROGRAM

Date: October 23, 2023

College/School: Mary Frances Early College of Education (MFECE)

Department/Division: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Program (Major and Degree): Special Education (M.Ed.)

CIP: 13100101

Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major? Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2024

1. Assessment

The University of Georgia offers a fully online Special Education (B.S.Ed.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum (GC). In addition, the department offers a Double Dawgs pathway in GC. The current number of Double Dawgs student is 36. Academic advisors report that some on-campus B.S.Ed. Special Education (GC) students would like to enroll in the Double Dawgs pathway but would also like to have the option of teaching full-time outside of the Athens area upon completion of the B.S.Ed., and thus would like to complete the M.Ed. online. Finally, an online M.Ed. program would expand the program's reach and ability to attract non-local students. Since the launch of the fully-online Dyslexia Endorsement program, interest in completing the rest of the M.Ed. Special Education program has grown.

Over the last five years, enrollment in the on-campus Special Education (M.Ed.) has grown. The department anticipates even further growth with a fully online M.Ed. option available. Data from the past five years shows an upward trend in enrollment:

- 2019 = 1 student
- 2020 = 8 students
- 2021 = 16 students
- 2022 = 22 students
- 2023 = 30 students

There are currently 14 B.S.Ed. students who are applying for the M.Ed. Special Education for a summer 2024 start date.

2. Admission Requirements

All requirements for admission to the online Special Education (M.Ed.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum program will be the same as those for the existing on-campus Special Education (M.Ed.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum program. Specifically, all applicants will:

- Have earned, or will have earned, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution before the date of enrollment in the program.
- Have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken.
- [If a foreign applicant] Will have scored a minimum of 20 points each on the Speaking and Writing sections of the TOEFL with an overall minimum score of 80. Test scores must be within 2 years from the date of application.

- Submit a statement of purpose and resume/CV.
- Provide three letters of recommendation. [This requirement is waived if a Double Dawg applicant.]

3. Program Content

The basic curriculum will be the same for the online Special Education (M.Ed.) as it is for the on-campus Special Education (M.Ed.). The criteria for electives or substitutions for specific requirements will be equivalent online.

4. Student Support Services

Program faculty will provide online advising. Each online M.Ed. student will be assigned a faculty advisor and will meet regularly with that advisor through virtual meeting platforms. Enrolled students will have access to technology services and supports offered through the Office of Instructional Technology housed within the Mary Frances Early College of Education (MFECO). The MFECO Office of Academic Programs will provide resources to assist online M.Ed. students with career development. All enrolled students will have access to UGA's Office of Financial Aid and Office of Student Care and Outreach. Students with documented disabilities can register and be assigned a counselor with the Disability Resource Center.

5. Resident Requirements

Residence requirements will be identical to those established for the authorized degree program.

6. Program Management

The Special Education Program Director, with the support of the staff-level Program Coordinator, will serve to maintain program processes and procedures. Additionally, Special Education faculty serving as advisors to students in the online program will provide support for program maintenance. Special Education faculty who are serving as instructors of online course offerings will maintain curricular and instructional quality. Monthly program meetings will allow faculty to collaborate and continuously evaluate program needs. An annual review of program Student Learning Objectives will allow faculty to further assess student success and program effectiveness.

The deadline for applying to the online Special Education (M.Ed.) is April 1st, and students will matriculate in the summer semester only. The duration of the 33-credit hour program will vary. Double Dawgs students will have completed 12 of 33 required hours during their undergraduate programs and will take approximately 3 additional semesters to complete the program. Students completing the full 33-hour program will likely take 3-5 semesters to complete the program. The anticipated start semester is summer 2024. There is no duplicate program in this area.

Program of Study 33 hours

Core Courses (6 hours)

EDSE 7020E, Assessment of Students with Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7120E, Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities (3 hours)

Methods Courses (15 hours)

EDSE 7050E, Positive Behavior Supports (3 hours)
EDSE 7150E, Designing Reading Interventions for Special Education (3 hours)
EDSE 7220E, Instruction of Students with High-Incidence Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7250E, Teaching Writing to Students with Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7770E, Practicum in Intensive Reading Intervention (3 hours)

Research Courses (3 hours)

Choose one of the following courses:

ERSH 6200E, Methods of Research in Education (3 hours)
ERSH 6300E, Applied Statistical Methods in Education (3 hours)
ETAP(QUAL)(ERSH) 7500E, Action Research (3 hours)

Applied Practice and Research Project (6 hours)

EDSE 7000E, Master's Research (3 hours) – course approval in progress
EDSE 7650E, Applied Project (3 hours)

Special Education Internship or Elective (3 hours)

If the student's undergraduate degree was NOT in special education, choose one of the following courses:

EDSE 7460E, Internship in Special Education (3 hours) – course approval in progress
EDSE 7600E, Topics in Special Education (3 hours) – course approval in progress

If the student's undergraduate degree was in special education, choose an elective instead.

Comprehensive Exam

All students will take the Comprehensive Exam during their final semester in the program.

7. Library and Laboratory Resources

Online UGA library resources already exist that are adequate to support this program. No laboratory is needed.

8. Budget

There are no foreseeable start-up costs to establishing a fully online M.Ed. in Special Education as a counterpart to the existing on-campus M.Ed. in Special Education. Online versions of the existing on-campus courses are being submitted for approval and will be available for students in his program. New

students entering the online Special Education (M.Ed.) program would register for the online versions of those required courses. There are no projected expenses for the first cycle of students due to these factors. Additional costs that may be associated with future cycles of students would be dependent upon student enrollment. If future student enrollment exceeds the current capacity of existing courses, future costs would include funds for the hiring of part-time instructors to cover increased course demand.

9. Program Costs Assessed to Students

There are no costs to online students that go beyond those normally associated with the on-campus program.

10. E-Rate

No e-rate will be charged.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Offer the existing major in Special Education (M.Ed.) online

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2024

School/College:

- Communication Sciences and Special Education department head, Dr. Bethany Hamilton-Jones, 12/2/23
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 12/7/23
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 2/7/24