



University Council

April 11, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

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Arts and Sciences – Casie LeGette (Arts)

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Business – Karen Aguar

Ecology – Amanda Rugenski

Education – Amy Murphy

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Environment and Design – Katherine Melcher

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Law – Joe Miller

Medicine – Erica Brownfield

Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon

Public and International Affairs – Ryan Powers

Public Health – Tamora Callands

Social Work – Jennifer Elkins

Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – William Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education for a Minor in Children's and Young Adult Literature will be an agenda item for the April 18, 2025, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

## PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. **School/College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education
2. **Department/Division:** Language and Literacy Education
3. **Minor Name:** Children's and Young Adult Literature
4. **CIP:** 23140500
5. **Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026
6. **Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens
7. **Program Description:**

The proposed Minor in Children's and Young Adult Literature is designed to serve the expressed interest and need of undergraduate students who wish to study children's and young adult literature while also pursuing their degree in education, English, counseling, or social work, among other affiliated majors. As the role of literature in the lives of youth continues to become more important, opportunities to engage in civic conversations and intellectual engagement in environments such as universities are needed. Additionally, the elimination of media specialist certification programs and children's and young adult courses for education majors along with a decreasing population of formally trained P-12 media specialists in schools influences UGA students' experiences and abilities to draw on prior exposure to quality child and young adult literature. Thus, this minor will fulfill a gap that resonates across multiple majors and that supports opportunities to fill witnessed gaps in college students' exposure to child and young adult literature.

This minor will also support undergraduate students in professions outside of education that involve children, communities, and literature. In April 2024, the faculty distributed a survey to undergraduate students with declared or intended majors in Human Development and Family Sciences (B.S.F.C.S.), Social Work (B.S.W.), English (A.B.), Marketing (B.B.A.), Entertainment and Media Studies (A.B.), and the undergraduate majors in the Mary Frances College of Education.

<b><i>How interested would you be in pursuing a minor in children's and young adult literature?</i></b>		
<b>Responses = 185</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Interested	19.5%	36
Somewhat Interested	40.5%	75
Neutral	14.1%	26
Somewhat Not Interested	10.3%	19
Not at All Interested	15.6%	29
Total	100.0%	185

Sixty percent of the respondents (N = 185) indicated they were very interested or

interested in pursuing the proposed minor. The majority of the 16 percent of respondents who said they were not at all interested cited their upcoming graduation as the primary reason.

Additionally, over 50 percent of the respondents indicated this minor would help them in their future career in education, social work, or publishing. Almost 40 percent of the respondents also indicated an interest in writing for youth or working in the publishing field. On a more holistic level, 46 percent of respondents expressed a desire to better understand the world through exposure to different cultural narratives.

<b><i>Why would the minor be of interest to you? (Select all that apply.)</i></b>		
<b>Responses = 130 of the 185 overall respondents</b>		
<b>Response Options</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
It would help me in my future career.	53.0%	69
I enjoy reading children's and young adult literature.	65.0%	84
I am interested in writing for youth and/or working in the children's and young adult publishing world.	38.0%	49
As a (future) parent or guardian, I am interested in becoming more aware about what is available and how to select books for youth.	46.0%	60
I want to better understand the world through different cultural narratives	42.0%	54
I think it will help me when I volunteer for non-profit organizations	14.0%	18
I want to be more knowledgeable about censorship and children's and young adult literature	47.0%	61
Other	4.0%	5

Leadership in the Institute of African American Studies have also expressed that their students are interested in pursuing studies in children’s and young adult literature within the Mary Frances Early College of Education. For this reason, the faculty anticipate the proposed elective course, LLED 4360, Contemporary Issues in African American Children’s and Young Adult Literature, will be the first of many collaborations between the Language and Literacy Education Department and the Institute of African American Studies.

First Year Odyssey Seminars (FYOS 1001) on topics such as “Challenging YA Literature: What’s at Stake” have also been popular and have led students to enroll in LLED 2110, Survey of Diverse Literature for Young Audiences, as an elective that also meets their Area IV, Humanities and Arts requirement.

There are currently no minors focused on literature that involve society from birth to adulthood offered at UGA.

**Educational Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Critique, analyze, and evaluate children’s and young adult literature by creators

from different cultures, countries, and backgrounds;

- Identify and describe literary concepts and elements of children's and young adult texts and genres;
- Articulate how children's and young adult books address their audience's identities, needs, and abilities;
- Write children's and young adult texts representing different genres, effectively implementing the craft, strategies, and techniques needed within each genre;
- Demonstrate knowledge of major children's and young adult awards, celebrated books, and acclaimed authors and illustrators;
- Explain how contemporary sociopolitical trends affect the publishing, teaching, and/or reception of children's and young adult literature;
- Describe, analyze, and critique and research relevant to children's and young adult literature;
- Apply selection and evaluation criteria to children's and young adult books;
- Design and implement action plans to engage children and youth, as well as their families and communities, with reading; and
- Analyze children's and young adults' reading responses

#### **8. Program of Study/Requirements:**

Include prefixes, numbers, and titles of required courses, as well as total credit hours (must be 15-18 hours). Include any residency requirements or grade requirements.

Students must earn a grade of "B-" (2.7) in courses counted toward the minor.

#### **Required Courses (6 hours)**

LLED 4310, Survey of Diverse Literature in Schools and Society (3 hours) – **NEW**

Choose one of the following:

LLED 4300, Sociopolitical Trends in Children's and Young Adult Literature (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4410, Adolescent Literature (3 hours)

LLED 5318/7318, Culturally Diverse Children's Literature, Grades P-8 (3 hours)

#### **Elective Courses (9 hours)**

Choose 3 of the following:

ENGL 3430, Literature and Childhood (3 hours)

LLED 4045, Special Topics in Language and Literacy Education (3 hours)

LLED 4300, Sociopolitical Trends in Children's and Young Adult Literature (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4320E/6320E, Writing for Youth (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4330, Comics and Social Justice for Children and Youth (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4340E/6340E, International Children's Literature (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4350, Disney and Children's Literature: Adaptations and Appropriations (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4360, Contemporary Issues in African American Children's and Young Adult Literature (3 hours) – **NEW**

LLED 4410, Adolescent Literature (3 hours)

LLED 5318/7318, Culturally Diverse Children's Literature, Grades P-8 (3 hours)

LLED 5335, Critical Readings of Picturebooks (3 hours) – **NEW**

Another course as approved by the department

Total = 15 hours

**From:** [Carolyn JONES Medine](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer M. Graff](#)  
**Cc:** [Lesley G. Feracho](#); [Jessica Couch](#); [Ashae Burgess](#); [Jerry Rafiki Jenkins](#)  
**Subject:** LLED 4360 course  
**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2025 1:23:12 PM

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Dear Dr. Graff,

I wanted to confirm that the Contemporary Issues in African American Children's and Young Adult Literature can be used as an elective in the Institute program of study for our majors and minors. When it is approved, we will advertise it and we always will have it on our list of courses.

We are excited to work with you all!

All the best!

Carolyn Medine, Director, IAAS

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:33 PM

**To:** Jennifer M Graff <[jgraff@uga.edu](mailto:jgraff@uga.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Request for English undergraduate students' input

Hi Jenn,

I'm Casie LeGette, undergrad coordinator for English, and Jim mentioned the undergrad minor your department is developing. I'm sure you are still in the early stages, but I wondered if you might be interested in including our ENGL 3430: Literature and Childhood as a possible class in support of the minor. We're able to offer it every year, pretty regularly, and lately we've been offering it in the summer as well. Happy to send along more information about the class if it seems of interest!

Thanks!

Casie

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Minor in Children's and Young Adult Literature

**College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education

**Department:** Language and Literacy Education

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2026

### School/College:

- Head of the Department of Language and Literacy Education, Dr. Allison Nealy, 3/3/2025
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 3/24/2025

### Letters of Support:

- Director of the Institute for African American Studies, Dr. Carolyn Medine, 2/28/2025
- Undergraduate Coordinator for the Department of English, Dr. Casie LeGette, 4/2/2024