



University Council

April 11, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Kylee Duberstein

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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Forestry and Natural Resources – Richard Chandler

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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 to terminate the major in Reading Education (M.Ed.) on the Athens campus only 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 DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: February 13, 2025

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Language and Literacy Education

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

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens, Online

Deactivation or Termination? Termination of the Athens campus only

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2026

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Spring 2025

Last date students will graduate from this program: There are no students enrolled in the Athens program.

Program Abstract:

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Reading Education is designed for teachers interested in becoming stronger and more capable literacy instructors. Through the program, students learn about innovative research and teaching practices associated with literacy education, explore multimodal approaches to instruction, and engage with diverse communities. The Master of Education (M.Ed.) program is designed to provide advanced training for educators who have elementary and secondary school initial certification.

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

This proposal is to terminate the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Reading Education on the Athens campus only. Over several academic years, enrollment in the program has shifted from in-person matriculation to matriculation in the online option for the program. The online M.Ed. is attractive to students who are also employed as teachers during the general school day and might not have the extra time needed to travel to the Athens campus for the course work. The online option can serve both students from across the state of Georgia as well as students from the geographic areas surrounding the Athens campus. The campus-based option for the program appears to be inconsistent with market demands for the program.

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.

Not applicable. There are currently no students enrolled in the face-to-face degree on the Athens campus.

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

There is strong enrollment in the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Reading Education online program as of spring 2025. Given that the online M.Ed. program is meeting the needs of interested graduate students, there is no need for a M.Ed. program on the Athens campus.

Campus/Major/Degree	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Athens					
Reading Education (M.Ed.)	3	2	6	2	0
Online					
Reading Education (M.Ed.)	20	23	18	21	16
Total	23	25	24	23	16

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to terminate Reading Education (M.Ed.) on the Athens campus only

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Language and Literacy Education

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2026

School/College:

- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 2/13/2025
- Head of the Department of Language and Literacy Education, Dr. Allison Nealy, 2/13/2025
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 4/9/2025