



University Council

August 8, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Julie Campbell

Arts and Sciences – Casie LeGette (Arts)

Paula Lemons (Sciences)

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Education – Amy Murphy

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Environment and Design – Katherine Melcher

Family and Consumer Sciences – Melissa Landers-Potts

Forestry and Natural Resources – Richard Chandler

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Law – Joe Miller

Medicine – Erica Brownfield

Pharmacy – Duc Do

Public and International Affairs – Ryan Powers

Public Health – Heather Padilla

Social Work – Jennifer Elkins

Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost Benjamin Ayers

Undergraduate Student Representative – TBD

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to deactivate the major in Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) will be an agenda item for the August 15, 2025, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

## PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

**Date:** July 21, 2025

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Department/Division:** Crop and Soil Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.)

**Which campus(es) offer this program?** Athens

**Deactivation or Termination?** Deactivation

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

**Last date students will be admitted to this program:** Summer 2026

**Last date students will graduate from this program:** Summer 2028

*Note: There may be no enrollment in the program as of the termination effective date.*

### **Program Abstract:**

*Provide a brief summary of the program being proposed for deactivation or termination.*

Students majoring in Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) study the biological, ecological, chemical, and physical processes that impact resource management. Graduates are well prepared for careers with agencies such as the USDA (including the NRCS, Forest Service, and ARS), as well as in environmental consulting, land reclamation, and environmental policy. Many also work for agricultural firms as land use experts, quality control specialists, or data analysts.

### ***1. State the reasons for deactivating the program and provide copies of any relevant documents.***

The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences proposes to deactivate, and eventually terminate, the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major due to consistently low enrollment. This change will not affect course offerings within the department, as the courses currently included under the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major are listed as requirements or course options under the Environmental Resource Science (B.S.E.S.) major, which is also offered by the department.

Students with an interest in water and soil resources will be directed to the newly created Area of Emphasis in Water and Soil Resources under the Environmental Resource Science (B.S.E.S.) major. This Area of Emphasis includes a focused subset of courses required by the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major.

### ***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.***

Faculty and staff in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences will be notified of the proposed deactivation via email. Undergraduate Coordinators from other departments in the College of

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and the Odum School of Ecology will also be notified by email.

Faculty and staff associated with the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major will be retained and do not need to be reallocated. The courses included under the major will continue to be offered, as they are also required or are elective options for other undergraduate and graduate programs within the department.

***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?***

The department's graduate programs will not be affected by the proposed deactivation. There is no specific graduate degree directly aligned with the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major. Instead, the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Crop and Soil Sciences, which encompass a broad range of research disciplines, including crop physiology, weed science, soil physics, soil chemistry, and others.

Undergraduate access to faculty mentorship will remain unchanged. Faculty who currently advise students in the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major will continue to mentor both current and future students interested in water and soil resource management.

Participation in the student-run clubs within the department will also be unaffected. These organizations are open to all UGA students and are not limited by major. Similarly, the department's industry outreach activities are broadly focused and inclusive, providing opportunities for all students, regardless of their specific program of study.

***4. State the plans for allowing students currently enrolled in the program to complete degree requirements, including specific information on: a) how students will be notified of the program deactivation, and b) how students will be advised on completing the program.***

Students currently enrolled in the Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.) major will be notified of the deactivation via email and encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns with their academic advisor and faculty mentors. All required courses for the current major will continue to be offered, so students close to graduation will be able to complete their degrees without needing to make changes to their existing four-year plans. Students also have the option of switching to the Area of Emphasis in Water and Soil Resources under the major in Environmental Resource Science (B.S.E.S.)

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Deactivate the major in Water and Soil Resources (B.S.E.S.)

**College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Department:** Crop and Soil Sciences

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2026

School/College:

- Department of Crop and Soil Sciences Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Jessica Barb, 7/21/2025
- Department Head for the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Dr. Jodi Johnson-Maynard, 7/21/2025
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Dean Kopsell, 8/5/2025