



UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA

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University Council

January 14, 2022

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2021-2022

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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 (B.S.Ed.) on the Griffin Campus only will be an agenda item for the January 21, 2022, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

# PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

**Date:** September 25, 2021

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

**Department/Division:** Communication Sciences and Special Education

**Program (Major and Degree):** Special Education (B.S.Ed.)  
with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum  
with an Area of Emphasis in Educational Studies in Special Education

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

**Deactivation or Termination?** Termination - 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 (B.S.Ed.) prepares graduates to teach students with mild to severe disabilities or young children with or without disabilities. The program fosters inclusion, diversity, and multiculturalism through theory and practice-based learning.

### **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 (B.S.Ed.) on 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. The rationale for the inclusion of the degree program 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 for offering. At the same time, the department offers a robust Special Education (B.S.Ed.) program on the Athens campus and through an online Special Education (B.S.Ed.) program. The current student enrollment for the Athens and online programs in Fall 2021 are 48 and 29, respectively.

Enrollment in the Griffin program from Fall 2016 to Fall 2021 is displayed below. Currently there are no active Special Education faculty on the Griffin campus. Current Griffin students are supported with courses from the Athens and online programs.

Major	Fall 16	Fall 17	Fall 18	Fall 19	Fall 20	Fall 21
Intended Special Education (B.S.Ed.)	2	3	3	0	1	0
Special Education (B.S.Ed.)	7	5	7	5	3	2

Therefore, given lack of enrollment and no current in-person faculty supports 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.**

Beginning in Fall 2021, the two remaining students in the program were supported with online options for their final year

of coursework. No new students applied and were admitted in Fall 2021. No faculty in Special Education are present on the Griffin 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 ensure that termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?**

The Athens and online programs have robust enrollment. There is no perceived impact on these programs.

**Approvals:**

*Bethany Hamilton-Jones*      *Denise A. Spangler*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head                      -      Dean of School/College