



University Council

September 15, 2023

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2023-2024

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Law – Joe Miller

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Public Health – Pamela Orpinas

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Shannon Hostetter

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Gabriella Lewis

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to terminate the major in Special Education (M.Ed.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum on the Griffin campus only will be an agenda item for the September 22, 2023, 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: March 2, 2023

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Program (Major and Degree): Special Education (M.Ed.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens and Griffin

Deactivation or Termination? Termination of the Griffin campus only

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2024

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Spring 2021

Last date students will graduate from this program: Spring 2023

Program Abstract: Special Education (M.Ed.) is designed for students entering the master's program who have completed undergraduate training in a teacher education field and who have a teaching certificate. This advanced program includes the study of research methods and findings that allow students to become skilled consumers. The Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum is for those interested in teaching students with mild disabilities who are primarily following the general curriculum. Training in this emphasis area prepares teachers to work in collaboration, inclusion, or resource models. The P-12 students with special needs who are most frequently served in these settings include those with behavior disorders, learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, other health impairments, and some students with autism or Asperger's.

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

All Special Education faculty who were based on the Griffin campus have retired. Although the program was open for a number of years, enrollment in the program does not meet minimum enrollment criteria. Only one student remains in the program and was admitted in spring 2021. Given lack of faculty and minimal graduate student interest, the faculty would like to close the program on 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.

No faculty will be impacted by this closure as there are no faculty on the Griffin campus. The one remaining student can be accommodated by Athens-based courses. The student takes one course per semester and will complete the degree program in summer 2025.

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 will be no impact on other master's programs. Special Education (M.Ed.) is still available on the Athens campus with 29 students enrolled as of fall 2022.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Terminate the major in Special Education (M.Ed.) on the Griffin campus only

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2024

Approvals:

- Communication Sciences and Special Education Department Head, Dr. Bethany Hamilton-Jones, 3/2/23
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 3/20/23
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 3/2/23
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/14/23