



# The University of Georgia

University Council  
Athens, Georgia 30602

February 5, 2016

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Graduate Student Representative - Ms. A. June Brawner

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for the following name change in the College of Education will be an agenda item for the February 12, 2016, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting:

### Major Name Change

From: Middle School Education (B.S.Ed., M.A.T., M.Ed., M.Ed. Online, Ed.S.)

To: Middle Grades Education (B.S.Ed., M.A.T., M.Ed., M.Ed. Online, Ed.S.)

Sincerely,

William K. Vencill, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav



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# The University of Georgia

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College of Education  
*Department of Educational Theory and Practice*

November 2, 2015

The Middle School Program's name change request has unanimous departmental support from the Department of Educational Theory and Practice. The change to the name Middle Grades Program more accurately captures the intent of the program, which is to focus on the educational needs of young adolescents in grades 4-8. The proposed name also aligns with the terminology currently used in this field of study.

Sincerely,

Cynthia B. Dillard, Ph.D.

Chair, Educational Theory and Practice &  
Mary Frances Early Professor of Teacher Education  
University of Georgia

## NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

**School/College Name:** College of Education

**Department Name:** Educational Theory and Practice

**Program Name Change:**

Current Program Name:  
Middle School Education Program

Proposed Program Name:  
Middle Grades Education Program

**Major Name Changes:**

Current Major Name:  
Middle School Education  
Middle School Education  
Middle School Education  
Middle School Education  
Middle School Education

Degree  
B.S.Ed.  
M.A.T.  
M.Ed.  
M.Ed. (Online)  
Ed.S.

Proposed Major Name:  
Middle Grades Education  
Middle Grades Education  
Middle Grades Education  
Middle Grades Education  
Middle Grades Education

Degree  
B.S.Ed.  
M.A.T.  
M.Ed.  
M.Ed. (Online)  
Ed.S.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

(See attached)

## **NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION**

We seek to change the name of our program from Middle School Education (EDMS) to Middle Grades Education (EDMG) in order to (1) better reflect the mission of our program and (2) be aligned with the current terminology used in our field.

(1) The Middle School Education program name is a misnomer. Our program focuses on meeting the needs of young adolescents in grades 4-8, and prepares teachers for those grade levels. However, the name “middle school” is typically used to refer to school buildings that house students in grades 6-8. Thus, the program’s current name does not accurately reflect our work, which includes the preparation of teachers for upper elementary grades (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>). As we seek to recruit and prepare students who are interested in teaching both upper elementary and middle school students, changing our name to Middle Grades Education will more accurately reflect our focus.

(2) We seek to change the name of our program in order to stay current in our field. The Association of Middle Level Education, the professional organization for our field, specifically focuses on students ages 10-15 (a focus on 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades). Further, the following Georgia institutions with similar programs use the name Middle Grades Education:

- Armstrong State University
- Brenau University
- Columbus State University
- Georgia College
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern: Middle Grades Education
- Georgia State University (Middle Level Education)
- Middle Georgia State College
- Piedmont College
- The University of West Georgia
- Tift College
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University