



University Council

January 10, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to offer the existing Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Elementary Education on the Gwinnett campus will be an agenda item for the January 17, 2025, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

Date: September 11, 2024

Department/Division: Educational Theory and Practice

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Program (Major and Degree): Elementary Education (M.A.T.)

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Athens and Gwinnett

Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major? No

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2025

1. Assessment

In 2024, the Mary Frances Early College of Education was contacted by the Human Resources Division of the Gwinnett County School District to engage the college in supporting the certification of their district's provisionally-certified teachers in Elementary Education. In 2023, the national Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that nationally there are 106,500 openings for kindergarten and elementary school teachers projected each year, on average. These openings result from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations, exit the labor force, or retire.

Simultaneously, the university's central administration has expressed an interest in continuing to establish robust graduate offerings at the Gwinnett campus. Transitioning provisionally-certified teachers to full-certified teachers is challenging given costs of higher education, demands for meeting teacher credentialing requirements, and the often full-time nature of educator preparation programs. This unique partnership with the Gwinnett County Schools will allow teachers who are earning a full-time teacher salary to have the option to formally pursue their teacher certification with the Mary Frances Early College of Education while maintaining their full-time employment. The college has the distinct advantage of being ranked #10 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

2. Admission Requirements

Candidates enrolled in the initial preparation Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Elementary Education will enter the program through a rigorous admissions process. This review includes a University of Georgia Graduate School application and required elements for initial preparation admission stipulated by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC). A holistic review of candidates is conducted meaning that faculty make an overall decision about admission from all data sources, although minimum requirements are also considered to meet both institutional and GaPSC requirements. The components for the holistic review include: (1) a Graduate School application for admission; (2) undergraduate grade point average of 2.8 or higher; (3) an application essay; (4) a resumé; (5) GRE scores for applicants whose undergraduate grade point averages are 2.99 or below; (6) transcripts from all institutions attended; (7) three letters of recommendation; (8) a summary of previous coursework; and (9) a summary of previous experiences with children.

3. Program Content

Course	Course Name	Credits
EDEL 6040	Learning Ecologies I: Equity, Access, and Inclusion in Context	3
EDEL 6045	Introduction to Elementary Education Theory and Practice	3
EDEL 6050	Learning Ecologies II: Integrated Curriculum and Assessment	3
EDEL 6060	Learning Ecologies III: Culturally Responsive Learning Environments and Classroom Management	3
EDEL 6070	Learning Ecologies IV: Arts-Based Pedagogies in Elementary Education	3
EDEL 7460	Student Teaching in Elementary Education	3
EDSE 6020	Inclusion of Students with Special Needs: PreK-Grade 5	3
EMAT 6420	Mathematics Methods for PreK-Grade 8	3
ESCI 6420	Science for Pre-K-8 th Grade	3
ESOC 7420	Social Studies for the Young Child	3
LLED 6010 or LLED 7320	Survey of Reading Instruction Pre-K through Grade 12 or Writers and Writing Pedagogy, Grades P-8	3
Total:		33

4. Student Advising

Students will be advised by the Elementary Education faculty. Services accessible for Gwinnett students will be identical to services offered in the Athens campus program. Matriculated students will be made aware of university student support services (e.g., libraries, CAPS, career center, etc.).

5. Resident Requirements

Residence requirements will be identical to those established for the authorized degree program.

6. Program Management

This program will be administered by faculty in the Department of Educational Theory and Practice with cooperation from content and pedagogy faculty from the Departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders; Language and Literacy Education; Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education. Day-to-day services will be supported by a faculty member, with support from the departments' Graduate Program Coordinator and Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the college's Office of Academic Programs and Office of Clinical Practice. Courses will be taught by program faculty and/or vetted part time instructors (PTI). PTIs will be hired on an as needed basis, although the faculty perceive this to be a rare need. Once established, the hope is the program will attract and support, at minimum, 50 new students per year.

Admissions will be managed on a once a year start in the spring semester. Student Learning Objectives for this proposed Gwinnett program are reported within the UGA required processes and are already operationalized based on the current face-to-face program. All courses are offered each year. The program should be completed by students in a two-year time period but can also be

completed at the learner's pace, so there is not a time limit, except within the graduate school's timeline requirements of six years before courses begin to expire.

Timetable for the first iteration of the degree program:

Fall 2024: Work with the Gwinnett County Schools to provide information about the program and to solicit applicants. Complete admissions to welcome a Spring 2025 cohort of 50 students. Compile data, complete request for substantive change by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Spring 2025: Offer the first two courses in the program of study. Advertise and carry out admission procedures for Spring 2026 cohort.

Summer – Fall 2025: Upon approval, conduct informational and recruitment sessions (e.g., school recruitment fairs).

7. Library and Laboratory Resources

There are no laboratory requirements for the program. In terms of library access, students will have access to Galileo and GIL. Students will be required to meet the basic technologies necessary to use eLC or other university systems.

8. Budget

Although this location will mirror the existing Athens program, funds will be requested for the teaching of these additional courses at the Gwinnett campus. Some courses in the program would be subsumed in regular faculty teaching loads. In other cases, courses will be supported through part-time instructors. The proposed program will employ current library resources and does not anticipate additional fees in the form of library, laboratory, or other specialized facility resource requirements. The faculty do not anticipate any startup costs for the proposed program. Additional instructional support is set for all programs within the college through an annual budgeting process and if there is a need for additional instruction, the funds will be assigned during that annual review process. Therefore, this proposal is submitted with a \$0 budget.

9. Program Costs Assessed to Students

Costs for students to complete the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Elementary Education would be consistent with the established fee structure for the university and for programs located at the Gwinnett campus.

10. Accreditation

This program is subject to approval by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. The program will submit a request to the GaPSC for an addition in location offering.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Offer the existing major in Elementary Education (M.A.T.) on the Gwinnett campus

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Departments: Educational Theory and Practice

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2025

School/College:

- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 9/11/2024
- Department of Educational Theory and Practice Department Head, Dr. Julie Kittleson, 9/11/2024
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 10/10/2024