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 online 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

<div style="text-align: center;">**PROPOSAL FOR AN ONLINE PROGRAM**</div>

Date: November 8, 2024

College/School: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Educational Theory and Practice

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

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

Effective Date: Summer 2025

CIP: 13121005

1. Assessment

This proposal is in response to market demand changes for individuals interested in pursuing a master's degree in elementary education that affords teacher certification as an outcome. Although the college has an existing face-to-face program, many educators are obtaining provisional teaching certificates and working full-time while teaching. Over the last five years, an increasing number of students have inquired about engaging with an online variant of the program. In fall 2024, the faculty conducted a survey of enrolled students and graduates from the last five years. Of these, 75% of respondents indicated that they would have preferred an online option.

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

The online modality option requires the same standards of academic excellence and rigor as the face-to-face delivery option. Expectations for the coursework include reading professional materials, composing scholarly papers, and participating in discussions and collaborative

assignments. As with the current program, most students are expected to take courses each academic semester and summer, resulting in a modal time-to-degree of four terms.

Program of Study

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

*An E-version of this course will be proposed prior to implementation of the program.

4. Student Support Services:

Students will be advised virtually by the Elementary Education faculty. Services accessible for online students will be identical to services offered in the face-to-face option. 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 existing face-to-face 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; and Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education. Day-to-day services will be supported by a faculty member with support from the department's 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, 20-25 new students per year.

Admissions will be managed on a once a year start in the summer semester. Student Learning Objectives for this proposed online 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 in four terms and within the graduate school's timeline requirements of six years before courses begin to expire.

For the past five years (2020-2024), enrollment in the program has been as follows:

2020-2021: 13
2021-2022: 31
2022-2023: 21
2023-2024: 23
2024-2025: 16

The online platform will provide the program with the capacity to admit and serve more students.

Timetable for the first iteration of the degree program:

Spring 2025: Upon approval, Advertise and carry out admission procedures for Summer 2025 cohort. Compile data, complete request for substantive change by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, complete applications for approval from the GaPSC and University, complete advertisement (e.g., video) for the program.

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

Summer 2025: Begin first cohort.

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 as the program is designed to be online.

8. Budget:

Although this online version will mirror the existing Athens face-to-face program, all classes proposed for this major are already developed and have an e-designation. Courses in the program would be subsumed in regular faculty teaching loads. When enrollment increases, separate sections of courses for students can be established and incorporated into instructional teaching loads or 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. Therefore, this proposal is submitted with a $0 budget.

9. **Program Costs Assessed to Student:**

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.

10. **E-Rate:**

The faculty are not requesting e-rate for this program.

11. **Accreditation:**

The online Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Elementary Education will be subject to approval by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. The program will submit a request to the GaPSC for an addition in modality offering.

12. **Application and Matriculation:**

Students will apply for admission for this program in the same way they would apply for on-campus programs. The only difference will be their intention to complete the program entirely online and indication that they have the technological capacity to participate in the program. Applications will be reviewed with the schedule that is established by the Graduate School. All applications will be considered for a summer start in the appropriate year.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Offer the existing major in Elementary Education (M.A.T.) online

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, 11/8/2024
- Department of Educational Theory and Practice Department Head, Dr. Julie Kittleson, 11/8/2024
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 1/15/2025