



University Council

March 7, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

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Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – William Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to terminate the following Areas of Emphasis under the major in Middle Grades Education (M.A.T.) will be an agenda item for the March 14, 2025, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

- Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Language Arts
- Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Science
- Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Social Studies
- Area of Emphasis in Science and Language Arts
- Area of Emphasis in Social Studies and Language Arts
- Area of Emphasis in Social Studies and Science

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: January 31, 2025

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Educational Theory and Practice

Areas of Emphasis to be terminated:

- Mathematics and Language Arts (MALA)
- Mathematics and Science (MASC)
- Mathematics and Social Studies (MSST)
- Science and Language Arts (SCLA)
- Social Studies and Language Arts (SSLA)
- Social Studies and Science (STSC)

Major(s) and degree(s) the areas of emphasis are offered under? Middle Grades Education (M.A.T.)

Which campus(es) offer these areas of emphasis? Athens

Proposed effective date: Summer 2025

Last date students will be admitted to these areas of emphasis: Summer 2024

Last date students will complete these areas of emphasis: Spring 2025

Program Abstract:

Provide a brief summary of the area of emphasis being proposed for termination.

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Middle Grades Education leads to initial certification for students who hold undergraduate degrees in other fields and who do not hold a teacher certification. The curriculum includes required courses and applied research individualized to the student's teaching interests in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies, allowing students to gain advanced content knowledge and pedagogical skills in educating young adolescents.

The state approval body for teacher certification, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, now requires that candidates in the program choose one area of specialization (i.e., Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies). Previously, students were required to choose two areas of specialization, and thus the different subjects were combined into multiple Areas of Emphasis. This degree is offered at the graduate level and there are numerous courses available to satisfy this content specialization requirement. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to codify the specific areas of emphasis. In the revised program of study, the candidates will take three courses in one of the content areas (English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies) based on consultation with their advisor.

1. Why are these area of emphasis being proposed for termination?

These areas of emphasis are no longer necessary to codify in the student's record. The completion of three courses focusing on English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies will be clear on the transcript.

2. What will be done to ensure that termination of the areas of emphasis do not weaken the major(s) under which they are offered?

Not applicable. This designation was a coding need when two areas of emphasis were required. This is no longer necessary.

3. How will faculty and staff be notified of the termination? Will termination of the areas of emphasis have any impact on the faculty and staff offering the areas of emphasis?

Not applicable. Students will complete three courses within a specific content area. This is the same level of engagement from faculty partners who teach this content.

4. How will students be notified of the termination? How will students currently in the areas of emphasis be advised to complete the requirements?

All courses will continue to be offered, so students will be able to complete as intended.

5. What plans, if any, are there for subsequent reactivation of the areas of emphasis?

There are no plans to reactivate the areas of emphasis as of now. This change is a result of a state agency change.

6. Provide a revised program of study/Bulletin layout of the major's requirements once the area of emphasis has been removed.

- EDMG 7010E, Community Contexts in Middle Grades Education (3)
- EDMG 7020E, Educating Young Adolescents (3)
- EDMG 7020L, Educating Young Adolescents Laboratory (1)
- EDMG 7035E, The Middle Grades Curriculum (3)
- EDMG 7035L, Middle Grades Curriculum Laboratory (1-3)
- EDMG 7040E, Teaching in the Middle Grades (3)
- EDMG 7460, Student Teaching in the Middle Grades (1-3)
- EDSE 6030E, Inclusion of Students with Special Needs: Grades 6-12 (3)
- ETAP 7610E, Classroom Management in Culturally Responsive Classrooms (3)
- LLED 6060E, Content Area Literacies (3)
- LLED 7630E, ESOL Grades P-12 (3)
- Electives (9) – Three specialization area courses chosen in consultation with advisor.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to terminate the following Areas of Emphasis under the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Middle Grades Education: Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Language Arts; Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Science; Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Social Studies; Area of Emphasis in Science and Language Arts; Area of Emphasis in Social Studies and Language Arts; Area of Emphasis in Social Studies and Science

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Educational Theory and Practice

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2025

School/College:

- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 1/31/2025
- Head of the Department of Educational Theory and Practice, Dr. Julie Kittleson, 1/31/2025
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 3/12/2025