



University Council

March 7, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

Susan Sanchez, Chair

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Social Work – Jennifer Elkins

Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

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 Graduate Certificate in Creativity and Innovation will be an agenda item for the March 14, 2025, 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:** January 13, 2025

**School/College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education

**Department/Division:** Educational Psychology

**Program (Major and Degree):** Graduate Certificate in Creativity and Innovation

**Which campus(es) offer this program?** Athens

**Deactivation or Termination?** Termination

**Proposed Effective Date:** Summer 2026

**Last date students will be admitted to this program:** Fall 2024

**Last date students will graduate from this program:** Spring 2026

## **Program Abstract:**

The Graduate Certificate in Creativity and Innovation, administered by the Mary Frances Early College of Education's Department of Educational Psychology, offers a collaborative pedagogical program that showcases academic and professional expertise from a wide range of departments across UGA.

Rapid advancements across all spheres of human endeavor characterize daily reality today. This situation renders it both beneficial and necessary to learn and to apply mental skillsets conducive to the generation of alternative solutions and new ideas. Breaking established pathways in charting a course through the unfamiliar necessitates creativity, innovation, imagination, and invention. This certificate enhances a student's ability to consider multiple perspectives, seek novel approaches, and integrate knowledge across domains to develop original and valuable insights.

By bringing departments and disciplines together under the umbrella of one program, this certificate gives students added expertise and an advantage when applying for jobs. With this certificate, students learn strategies for innovation that enhance their creative potential, a skill which employers seek. This unique collaboration brings together multiple colleges, campus units, and faculty with the interest of promoting creativity and innovation. For example, if an art student wants access to courses on entrepreneurship in the M.B.A. program, this certificate program helps with unconventional yet practical and creative endeavors. This certificate is open to current graduate students.

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

This proposal is to terminate the Graduate Certificate in Creativity and Innovation. This program was deactivated in Spring 2019 and reactivated in Fall 2021. Although program coordinators worked diligently to address low enrollment and logistical challenges by providing options to increase enrollment, such as ensuring the regularity of course offerings and conducting specific marketing campaigns for the certificate, interest has not increased. Therefore, the faculty would like to terminate the certificate.

## **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.**

Only one student remains in the certificate and will complete the program of study by Spring 2026. The faculty will work with this student to complete the certificate. Faculty involved with the certificate also administer master's, specialist, and doctoral programs; closure of this certificate will allow the faculty to have additional time to staff their graduate programs. The college's recent PRAC review from the

university recommended the program's closure based on low enrollment statistics. Specifically, in the last three spring terms (2022-2024), there were 2, 4, and 2 students enrolled, respectively.

**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?**

Faculty involved with the certificate also administer master's, specialist, and doctoral programs. The closure of this certificate will allow them additional time to staff their graduate programs.

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Proposal to terminate the Graduate Certificate in Creativity and Innovation

**College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education

**Department:** Educational Psychology

**Proposed Effective Term:** Summer 2026

School/College:

- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 1/13/2025
- Head of the Department of Educational Psychology, Dr. Amy Reschly, 1/13/2025
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 3/12/2025