



University Council

January 10, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

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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 College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Mary Frances Early College of Education, and the School of Social Work to terminate the Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy 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 DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: June 25, 2024

School/College: College of Family and Consumer Sciences
Mary Frances Early College of Education
School of Social Work

Department/Division: Human Development and Family Science
Counseling and Human Development Services
School of Social Work

Program (Major and Degree): Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy

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

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2025

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Summer 2024

Last date students will graduate from this program: Fall 2027

Note: There may be no enrollment in the program as of the termination effective date.

Program Abstract:

The Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy was founded as a mechanism for clinical programs at UGA to collaborate in training systemic practitioners in a specialized form of psychotherapy that focuses on treating emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues that arise within the context of relational systems.

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

The standards for curricular requirements and licensing have changed since the launch of this certificate, and the bulk of the present program of study does not meet the legal nor professional definitions for courses in marriage and family studies or marriage and family therapy.

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.

A letter to the Deans of each participating college detailing the teach-out plan was distributed via email in June 2024 following phone conversations between each of the units, serving as notice of the plan to terminate the certificate. Courses included in the program will continue to be offered in their respective units as part of the existing degree programs in each discipline. As a result, faculty and staff will not have to be re-allocated and will continue to teach in their respective programs.

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?

A new Master of Science (M.S.) in Couple and Family Therapy program is under review by the University System of Georgia and expected to launch in fall 2025.

4. State the plans for allowing students currently enrolled in the program to complete requirements, including specific information on: a) how students will be notified of the program termination, and b) how students will be advised on completing the program.

There are currently 39 students enrolled in the certificate, with no new applicants being accepted. In fall 2023, certificate coordinators met with each student to create an individual plan for completion. An additional check-in will be held with each student in fall 2024 to monitor progress.

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

There are no plans to reactivate the certificate.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Terminate the Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy

College: College of Family and Consumer Sciences; Mary Frances Early College of Education; School of Social Work

Departments: Human Development and Family Science; Counseling and Human Development Services; School of Social Work

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2025

School/College:

- College of Family and Consumer Sciences Dean, Dr. Anisa Zvonkovic, 9/16/24
- Department of Human Development and Family Science Department Head, Dr. April Few-Demo, 6/25/24
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/13/24
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 8/19/24
- School of Social Work Associate Dean, Dr. Rachel Fusco, 9/16/24