



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

February 5, 2016

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Undergraduate Student Representative - Ms. Taylor K. Lamb

Graduate Student Representative - Ms. A. June Brawner

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for the following name changes in the College of Education will be an agenda item for the February 12, 2016, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting:

Major Name Change

From: Middle School Education (B.S.Ed., M.A.T., M.Ed., M.Ed. Online, Ed.S.)

To: Middle Grades Education (B.S.Ed., M.A.T., M.Ed., M.Ed. Online, Ed.S.)

Prefix Name Change

From: EDMS

To: EDMG

Sincerely,

William K. Vencill, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten

Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

Committee on Facilities, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees, Committee on Student Affairs, Curriculum Committee, Educational Affairs Committee, Executive Committee, Faculty Admissions Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, Faculty Grievance Committee, Faculty Post-Tenure Review Appeals Committee, Faculty/Staff Parking Appeals Committee, Human Resources Committee, Program Review and Assessment Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, University Libraries Committee, University Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee



The University of Georgia

College of Education
Department of Educational Theory and Practice

November 2, 2015

The Middle School Program's name change request has unanimous departmental support from the Department of Educational Theory and Practice. The change to the name Middle Grades Program more accurately captures the intent of the program, which is to focus on the educational needs of young adolescents in grades 4-8. The proposed name also aligns with the terminology currently used in this field of study.

Sincerely,

Cynthia B. Dillard, Ph.D.

Chair, Educational Theory and Practice &
Mary Frances Early Professor of Teacher Education
University of Georgia

NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

School/College Name: College of Education

Department Name: Educational Theory and Practice

Program Name Change:

Current Program Name:
Middle School Education Program

Proposed Program Name:
Middle Grades Education Program

Major Name Changes:

Current Major Name:
Middle School Education
Middle School Education
Middle School Education
Middle School Education
Middle School Education

Degree
B.S.Ed.
M.A.T.
M.Ed.
M.Ed. (Online)
Ed.S.

Proposed Major Name:
Middle Grades Education
Middle Grades Education
Middle Grades Education
Middle Grades Education
Middle Grades Education

Degree
B.S.Ed.
M.A.T.
M.Ed.
M.Ed. (Online)
Ed.S.

Prefix Changes:

Current Department:
Prefix: EDMS Middle School Education

Proposed Department:
Prefix: EDMG Middle Grades Education

JUSTIFICATION:

(See attached)

NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

We seek to change the name of our program from Middle School Education (EDMS) to Middle Grades Education (EDMG) in order to (1) better reflect the mission of our program and (2) be aligned with the current terminology used in our field.

(1) The Middle School Education program name is a misnomer. Our program focuses on meeting the needs of young adolescents in grades 4-8, and prepares teachers for those grade levels. However, the name “middle school” is typically used to refer to school buildings that house students in grades 6-8. Thus, the program’s current name does not accurately reflect our work, which includes the preparation of teachers for upper elementary grades (4th and 5th). As we seek to recruit and prepare students who are interested in teaching both upper elementary and middle school students, changing our name to Middle Grades Education will more accurately reflect our focus.

(2) We seek to change the name of our program in order to stay current in our field. The Association of Middle Level Education, the professional organization for our field, specifically focuses on students ages 10-15 (a focus on 4th-9th grades). Further, the following Georgia institutions with similar programs use the name Middle Grades Education:

- Armstrong State University
- Brenau University
- Columbus State University
- Georgia College
- Georgia Regents University
- Georgia Southern: Middle Grades Education
- Georgia State University (Middle Level Education)
- Middle Georgia State College
- Piedmont College
- The University of West Georgia
- Tift College
- University of North Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University