



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

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## University Council

October 6, 2017

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Education to offer the existing Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia as an online program will be an agenda item for the October 13, 2017, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Alison F. Alexander, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

**Proposal for an External Degree  
The University of Georgia**

Institution: University of Georgia

Date: 3/27/17

College/School/Division: College of Education

Department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Program: Online Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia

CIP Code: 13101101

Proposed Start Date: Fall 2018

**1. Assessment**

In order to gauge interest in the offering, a brief survey was developed and distributed to COE undergraduate and graduate students in a variety of majors (e.g., Special Education, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Early Childhood Education, Educational Psychology, Middle Grades, and Secondary Education). A total of 161 students responded to the survey. Results from the survey indicated strong interest in a Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia program. A breakdown of the results follows:

*1. Level of interest in Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia*

	Number of Responses	Percentage
No interest	31	19%
Some interest	71	44%
Moderate interest	31	19%
High interest	28	17%

***Summary: 59 respondents expressed moderate to high interest in a Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia.***

2. *If a Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia program were offered next year, would you apply?*

	Number of Responses	Percentage
Yes	52	32%
No	109	68%

**Summary: 52 respondents indicated they would apply to the Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia program.**

3. *Respondent Demographics*

	Descriptor	Count
<i>Current Status</i>	Undergraduate	98
	Graduate	60
	Professional (UGA-grad)	3
<i>Majors</i>	Special Education	65
	Communication Sciences	32
	Early Childhood Education	23
	Educational Psychology	15
	Middle Grades or Secondary Education	25
	Other	14

Our existing Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia program was approved in June 2016, and our first cohort of students (n=12) matriculated in Aug. 2017. Since June 2016, we have received ~75 inquiries about the program, most of which (n=45) were from individuals who indicated that they were interested in an online program. Currently, no other universities in Georgia offer a program in dyslexia, online or otherwise. Therefore, there is tremendous marketing potential for this innovative certificate program, which has the capacity to fulfill UGA's statewide responsibility for public service and technical assistance. The courses that comprise the GCD provide teachers, clinicians, and specialists with specific knowledge related to reading and language development, assessment, and instruction and remediation of reading disability.

**2. Admission Requirements**

For this certificate, the faculty have agreed on two admissions criteria:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in a related field (e.g., education, communication sciences and disorders, educational psychology);
2. Have a competitive GPA in all previous college coursework.

The certificate is open to degree-seeking students and non-degree-seeking students.

#### 4. Program Content

The content of this online certificate was designed to align with the International Dyslexia Association's (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading. Teacher preparation programs should ascribe to a common set of professional standards for the benefit of the students they serve, including those with diverse learning needs. By adhering to these standards, we can assure the public that individuals who complete our Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia program are prepared to implement evidence-based and instructionally effective practices for reading instruction.

Course	Credits	Term	Instructor
<b>SPED 7120E:</b> Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities	3	Fall	Lindstrom
<b>SPED 7010E:</b> Clinical Assessment in Special Education	3	Fall	Anderson
<b>SPED 7150E:</b> Designing Reading Interventions for Special Education	3	Spring	Sayeski
<b>SPED 7250E:</b> Assessment and Intervention for Struggling Writers	3	Spring	Lindstrom
<b>SPED 7440E:</b> Practicum in Special Education	3	Summer	Sayeski

#### 4. Student Advising

Student advisement will be handled by two current faculty members (Lindstrom and Sayeski). An anticipated program enrollment of 25 students per annual cohort would not place an undue advising burden on these faculty. In addition, one departmental staff member is assigned to manage the administrative aspects of all of the department's online programs. This additional support greatly reduces the amount of time faculty will need to spend providing guidance related to admissions, applications for graduation, financial assistance, etc.. As is the case with all other Special Education program students, each student will be assigned to one academic advisor and will be expected to review progress and goals with that advisor once per semester. These conversations will occur via phone and e-mail. Advisement conversations will address student progress, grades, and plans.

#### 5. Resident Requirements

There will be no residence requirements; all new students beginning in fall 2018 will pay the e-rate for tuition regardless of residence. However, students will be urged to follow the cohort course schedule consisting of two courses per semester (fall and spring) and one course in the summer; also, ongoing participation in the program will be governed by the UGA Graduate School's continuous enrollment policy.

#### 6. Program Management

Two graduate faculty, Dr. Jennifer Lindstrom and Dr. Kristin Sayeski, with the assistance of the CSSE Department's Graduate Coordinator Assistant, will be responsible for the general management of the Online GCD program, including recruitment, scheduling, advising, and coordinating experiential learning/field-based activities. Drs. Lindstrom and Sayeski will work closely with the Graduate Coordinator Assistant to ensure that students in the program complete all program requirements.

### *Timetable for Implementation*

Recruitment will begin as soon as approval is received. Two of the five (SPED 7010E, SPED 7150E) courses for the Certificate are currently offered online. The remaining three courses are approved “E” courses, whose content is being converted from face-to-face to online formats during the 2017 spring and summer semesters.

### **7. Library and Laboratory Resources**

Existing library resources, computer facilities, and other support resources are adequate to support students completing this certificate. These include online journal subscriptions held by the university libraries, which are generally adequate for departmental scholarship and instruction, and instructional technology supports provided within the College of Education.

### **8. Budget**

The only planned costs that will be incurred with the implementation of this online certificate program are related to (1) advertising, and (2) salary for a current 9-month faculty member to teach SPED 7440E in the summer. Current CSSE faculty (Lindstrom) will serve as the coordinator of this certificate program, and existing graduate student services staff have availability to accommodate additional students. The program consists of courses currently offered, so there is no additional faculty salary expense to support course coverage. In addition, there is no need for special equipment or library materials as these are already available for the existing courses.

Advertising the certificate program may include posters, program brochures, print/web ads, and/or cards in UGA buses. These costs are projected below:

Cost	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Personnel* (summer course)	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Operating Costs	\$500	\$300	\$150
Capital Outlays	\$0	\$0	\$0
Library Acquisitions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$8000	\$7,800	\$7650

\*The cost for hiring a faculty member to teach the summer course is offset by tuition differential (\$275 per credit hour).

### **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

The online program for GCD students will use the UGA e-rate of \$629/credit hour. No additional costs will be assessed to students beyond tuition.

### **10. Accreditation**

The course content of the online version of the GCD will not be altered in any substantive way from the current, approved version of the GCD. We plan to seek accreditation from the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) for our program when the window is open to us in two years (2019). Aligning our program with IDA standards puts us in a favorable position to undertake the rigorous accreditation process. Receiving accreditation will further validate the merits of this program.

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Offer the Existing Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia as an Online Program

**Department:** Communication Studies and Special Education

**College:** College of Education

**Proposed Effective Term:** Spring 2018

Department:

- Communication Studies and Special Education Department Head, Dr. Cynthia Vail, 3/27/2017

School/College:

- College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 5/1/2017

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Dean, Dr. Suzanne Barbour, 9/15/2017