



University Council

October 9, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

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Graduate School – Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett

Ex-Officio – Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Undergraduate Student Representative – Christa Patterson

Graduate Student Representative – Samuel Siaw

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education for the changes listed below will be an agenda item for the October 16, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

- Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Music Education under the major in Education (Ed.S.) online
- Proposal to terminate the major in Music Education (Ed.S.)

Sincerely,

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

cc: Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: August 3, 2026

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Mary Frances Early College of Education; Hugh Hodgson School of Music

Program (Major and Degree): Education (Ed.S.)

Area of Emphasis Title: Music Education

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Online

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2027

CIP: 13131201

1. Area of Emphasis Description:

The Area of Emphasis in Music Education under the online Education (Ed.S.) is designed for students who have already earned a master's degree. Students will receive training in music performance, pedagogy, and research. This program prepares students for leadership positions, university teaching, curriculum planning, and consulting positions. The program consists of 30 hours beyond the master's degree, and the curriculum is jointly planned by the student and advisor based on prior study in their field and future goals. By offering this program under the larger Ed.S. degree program in the College of Education, music educators can access advanced preparation and obtain an advanced credential while joining a community of other educational specialist students.

As a program that can lead to advanced teacher certification, this area of emphasis is a unique partnership between the Hugh Hodgson School of Music and the Mary Frances Early College of Education. Colleges with specific content expertise partner with the College of Education, which serves as the university's educator preparation program unit. Although the primary subject matter content will be taken in the School of Music, pedagogy courses for the College of Education will enhance the degree. Certification upgrades through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GAPSC) are available for candidates who have already been granted T-5 certification by the GAPSC. Candidates who are certified teachers can apply for this certification advancement through a process led by the College of Education.

Consistent with the other areas of emphasis that fall under the College of Education's online Education (Ed.S.) major, candidates who complete the Area of Emphasis in Music Education will be assessed with these common student learning outcomes that support the documented outcomes for all other areas of emphasis in the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree: (1) Students will demonstrate knowledge of theory and research in their discipline; (2) Students will demonstrate knowledge of the research process and capacity to conduct applied research in their discipline; and (3) Students will demonstrate specialized knowledge or skills in one core discipline-specific area.

2. Area of Emphasis Requirements

The Area of Emphasis in Music Education requires a minimum of 30 hours of study at the graduate level beyond the master's degree and fifth-year certification in music education. The program requires completion of the following five areas, with courses chosen in consultation with the student's major professor/advisor. Appropriate courses taken for the master's degree may be applied toward these requirements.

Area A: Teaching Field Specialization

Area B: Educational Psychology, Foundations (minimum of 9 hours)

Area C: Curriculum, Supervision, Administration (minimum of 9 hours)

Area D: Research, Assessment, Evaluation (minimum of 6 hours)

Area E: Field Research

Select additional courses, as needed, in consultation with an advisor to meet the minimum number of required credit hours for this program.

PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: August 3, 2026

School/College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Hugh Hodgson School of Music

Program (Major and Degree): Music Education (Ed.S.)

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2027

Last date students will be admitted to this program: No students are enrolled in this program

Last date students will graduate from this program: No students are enrolled in this program

Program Abstract:

The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in Music Education is designed for students who have already earned a master's degree. Students will receive training in music performance, pedagogy, and research. This program prepares students for leadership positions, university teaching, curriculum planning, and consulting positions. The program consists of 30 credit hours beyond the master's degree, and the curriculum is jointly planned by the student and advisor based on prior study in their field and future goals.

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

This program was listed on a recent roster of University System of Georgia programs that were deemed low-enrolled. Like the companion Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) program in Art Education that is housed within the Mary Frances Early College of Education (MFECE), the program will be folded under MFECE's overarching Education Specialist program and will continue to be offered as an Area of Emphasis in Music Education. Such placement will allow access to the program for students post-masters degree who do not wish to earn a doctoral degree. In addition, this program can also serve as an alternative credential for students who do not wish to pursue the Music Education doctoral program's more extensive research requirements. There are currently no students enrolled in the Ed.S. in Music Education.

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.

No students are enrolled in this major. A proposal to move this program under the College of Education's omnibus online Educational Specialist degree as an area of emphasis is being concurrently proposed. Faculty already teach courses that would be included within that area of emphasis. Therefore, there is no impact on the personal and professional lives of faculty and staff.

3. What will be done to insure that termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

The consolidation of this program under the College of Education's Education (Ed.S.) will provide access for students who want to pursue the major. No other challenges are anticipated.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Music Education under the major in Education (Ed.S.) online; Proposal to terminate the major in Music Education (Ed.S.)

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Mary Frances Early College of Education; Hugh Hodgson School of Music

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2027

School/College:

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Dan Bara, 9/14/2026
- Hugh Hodgson School of Music Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Brandon Craswell, 9/15/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 8/21/2026
- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/28/2026