



University Council

October 9, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

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Graduate School – Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett

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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 Science Education under the major in Education (Ed.S.) online
- Proposal to terminate the major in Science Education (Ed.S.)

Sincerely,

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

cc: Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: May 31, 2026

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Mary Frances Early College of Education

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

Area of Emphasis Title: Science Education

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Online

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2027

CIP: 13131601

1. Area of Emphasis Description:

The Area of Emphasis in Science Education consists of a coordinated sequence of online coursework for science educators to gain expertise in science content and pedagogical skills in science education. The program consists of 30 hours beyond the master's degree. Candidates complete courses in educational research, instructional strategies, curriculum, integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and other science education-related topics. Candidates also take graduate-level courses in the psychological and social foundations of education and, with permission of the instructor, are permitted to take some doctoral-level courses in science education.

Consistent with the other areas of emphasis within the Mary Frances Early College of Education's Education (Ed.S.) major, candidates who complete the Area of Emphasis in Science Education will be assessed with these common student learning outcomes: (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.

This proposal is also in response to a review conducted by the University System of Georgia to identify low-enrolled degree programs. The mandate specified the need to merge unique programs into larger programs by adding the content under a unique area of emphasis.

2. Major Requirements

Admissions Requirements: Renewable T-5 level Certification in either a secondary field or middle grades education with science as one of their specialty fields. Required admissions materials for this program include: transcripts, (3) letters of recommendation, resume and statement of purpose.

Choose 18 credit hour(s) from the following:

ESCI 6230E, Environmental Science Education (3 hours)

ESCI 6240E, Integration of Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in Science Teaching (3 hours)

ESCI 6250E, Socio-Scientific Issues in Science Education (3 hours)

ESCI 6410E, Physical Sciences for Middle School Teachers (4 hours)

ESCI 6470E, Special Topics in Science Teaching (3 hours)

ESCI 7040E, Strategies for Middle and Secondary School Science Teachers (3 hours)
ESCI 7080E, Curriculum Planning in Science Education (3 hours)

Choose 9 credit hour(s) from the following:

EPSY 6011E, Foundations of Human Development for Education (3 hours)
EPSY 6060E, Foundations of Motivation for Education (3 hours)
EPSY 6240E, Abnormal Child Psychology (3 hours)
EPSY 6800E, Foundations of Cognition for Education (3 hours)
EPSY 7060E, Assessment of Gifted Children and Youth (3 hours)
EPSY 7110E, Characteristics of Gifted Children and Youth (3 hours)
EPSY 7210E, Multicultural Gifted and Talented Education (3 hours)
EPSY 7230E, Strategies and Materials for the Gifted (3 hours)
EPSY 7240E, Creativity: Instructional Procedures and Problem Solving Processes (3 hours)
EPSY 7250E, Program and Curriculum Development for the Gifted (3 hours)
EPSY 7260E, Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Students (3 hours)
EPSY 7270E, Retention of Ethnic Minorities in Gifted/Advanced Programs (3 hours)

Choose 3 credit hour(s) from the following:

ERSH 6600E, Applied Educational Assessment (3 hours)
ERSH 7250E, Educational Program and Project Evaluation (3 hours)
ERSH 7600E, Construction of Educational Measuring Instruments (3 hours)
ESCI 6990E, Research Seminar in Science Education (3 hours)

Each student will complete a capstone applied project under the guidance of their Major Professor. This enrollment is required even if the student has prior research experience at the master's level (e.g., ESCI 7000 and/or ESCI 7300 at UGA or comparable experience in another field or at another institution), and is recommended to be completed in the semester during which the student expects to graduate.

PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: May 31, 2026

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education

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

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2028

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Fall 2026

Last date students will graduate from this program: Fall 2027

Program Abstract:

The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in Science Education consists of a coordinated sequence of coursework for science educators to gain expertise in science content and pedagogical skills in science education. The program consists of 30 hours beyond the master's degree. Candidates complete courses in educational research, instructional strategies, curriculum, integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and other science education-related topics. Candidates also take graduate-level courses in the psychological and social foundations of education and, with permission of the instructor, are permitted to take some doctoral-level courses in science education.

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

This proposal is to terminate the existing Athens-based Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Science Education. Over several academic years, interest in the program has shifted from in-person matriculation to interest in matriculation in an online option for the program, so the on-campus Science Education (Ed.S.) is no longer needed. An Area of Emphasis in Science Education is concurrently being proposed under the existing online Ed.S. program, which has a robust enrollment of 117 students as of Spring 2026. Such an online option is attractive to students who are also employed as teachers during the general school day and might not have the extra time needed to travel to the Athens campus for the course work. The online option can serve students from across the state of Georgia. The campus-based option for the program appears to be inconsistent with market demands for the program.

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.

The two enrolled students will be asked if they would like to move to the online Education (Ed.S.) with an Area of Emphasis in Science Education. The last student in the Science Education (Ed.S.) program should graduate in Fall 2027.

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 and staff have been reassigned to the B.S.Ed., M.A.T., Ed.D. and Ph.D. options within the program. The faculty have initiated this proposal. There is no change in staffing as the graduate program administrator will shift their work on admission and other graduate school processes from serving campus-based students to supporting the online students.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

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

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2027 (area of emphasis); Spring 2028 (termination)

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education, Dr. James Garrett, 5/31/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 8/21/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 5/31/2026
- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/28/2026