



University Council

April 10, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Julie Campbell

Arts and Sciences – Casie LeGette (Arts)

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Education – Amy Murphy

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Law – Joe Miller

Medicine – Erica Brownfield

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Public and International Affairs – Ryan Powers

Public Health – Heather Padilla

Social Work – Jennifer Elkins

Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost Benjamin Ayers

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – Yaw Buabeng

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to terminate the Area of Emphasis in Research-Oriented Learning Design under the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Learning, Design, and Technology on the Athens campus only will be an agenda item for the April 17, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

# PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

**Date:** February 4, 2026

**School/College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education

**Department/Division:** Workforce Education and Instructional Technology

**Area of emphasis to be terminated:** Research-Oriented Learning Design

**Major(s) and degree(s) the area of emphasis is offered under?** Learning, Design, and Technology (M.Ed.)

**Which campus(es) offer this area of emphasis?** Athens, online; this proposal is to terminate on the Athens campus only

**Proposed effective date:** Summer 2026

**Last date students will be admitted to this area of emphasis:** No students are enrolled at Athens

**Last date students will complete this area of emphasis:** No students are enrolled at Athens

## **Program Abstract:**

**Provide a brief summary of the area of emphasis being proposed for termination.**

The M.Ed. in Learning, Design, and Technology supports students in learning the latest technologies and tools to design and implement lessons and training programs. The program prepares professionals to identify and analyze learning problems and then create and implement more effective designs for learning to address these needs. The Area of Emphasis in Research-Oriented Design is designed to prepare candidates for doctoral-level study in educational technology research and for careers in academia and research.

## **1. Why is this area of emphasis being proposed for termination?**

The faculty submitted a request to offer the M.Ed. in Learning, Design, and Technology with an Area of Emphasis in Research Oriented Learning Design online. There are currently no students enrolled in the Athens-based option. Because there is an online option, the Athens-based face-to-face option is no longer needed.

## **2. What will be done to ensure that termination of the area of emphasis does not weaken the major(s) under which it is offered?**

The data suggest that the online variant of the program is the desired option for those seeking the credential. Given the lack of enrollment on the Athens campus, there is clear evidence that the campus-based program is no longer needed.

## **3. How will faculty and staff be notified of the termination? Will termination of the area of emphasis have any impact on the faculty and staff offering the area of emphasis?**

The faculty have initiated this proposal. All faculty who taught in the campus-based program have transitioned their teaching to the online variant of the program. There is no change in staffing as the graduate program administrator has just shifted their work on admission and other graduate school processes from serving campus-based students to supporting the online students.

## **4. How will students be notified of the termination? How will students currently in the area of emphasis be advised to complete the requirements?**

No students are currently enrolled in the campus-based program.

**5. What plans, if any, are there for subsequent reactivation of the area of emphasis?**

Given the enrollment possibilities in the online option, there is no plan to reactivate the campus-based option.

**6. Provide a revised program of study/Bulletin layout of the major's requirements once the area of emphasis has been removed.**

There is no change proposed in the program of study.

EDIT 6170E, Introduction to Instructional Design (3 hours)

EDIT 6190E, Design Thinking and Development Tools (3 hours)

EDIT 6900E, Research Methods in Instructional Technology (3 hours)

EDIT 7000E, Master's Research (6 hours)

EDIT 7150E, Principles of Human Performance Technology and Analysis (3 hours)

EDIT 7190E, Design Thinking and Innovation in Learning, Design, and Technology (3 hours)

EDIT 7350E, Evaluation and Analytics in Instructional Design (3 hours)

EDIT 7520E, Online Teaching and Learning (3 hours)

EDIT 7630E, Review of Educational Technology Research (3 hours)

ERSH 6300E, Applied Statistical Methods in Education (3 hours)

Choose 1 from the following:

ERSH 6600E, Applied Educational Assessment (3 hours)

ERSH 7600E, Construction of Educational Measuring Instruments (3 hours)

ETAP(QUAL)(ERSH) 7500E, Action Research (3 hours)

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Proposal to terminate the Area of Emphasis in Research-Oriented Learning Design under the major in Learning, Design, and Technology (M.Ed.) on the Athens campus only

**College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education

**Department:** Workforce Education and Instructional Technology

**Proposed Effective Term:** Summer 2026

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Workforce Education and Instructional Technology, Dr. Rob Branch, 2/4/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 2/24/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 2/4/2026