



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

University Council

October 9, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Christa Patterson

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to terminate the Area of Emphasis in Special Education under the major in Education (Ed.S.) on the Athens campus only will be an agenda item for the October 16, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

cc: Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: April 13, 2026

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Area of emphasis to be terminated: Area of Emphasis in Special Education

Major(s) and degree(s) the area of emphasis is offered under? Education Specialist (Ed.S.)

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

Proposed effective date: Spring 2027

Last date students will be admitted to this area of emphasis: Fall 2025

Last date students will complete this area of emphasis: Fall 2026

Program Abstract:

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

The Area of Emphasis in Special Education under the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree allows students to pursue advanced studies in special education. It is designed for candidates who already hold a master's degree. Students can tailor their studies to their background and goals and complete the program at their own pace by spreading out their coursework over a number of years.

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

Over the last few years, enrollment has dropped dramatically which has influenced the program's ability to meet minimum enrollment numbers in preparation courses. First-year admits as well as transfer students were declaring interest in an online option for this program. The students are working professionals, many of whom live more than 60 miles from Athens. The faculty have recently transitioned the program to an online platform to meet student demand.

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?

All in-person courses currently listed on the on-campus Ed.S. program of study are still being offered through other areas of emphasis under the degree (e.g., Applied Behavioral Analysis) or other programs within the college (e.g., Educational Administration and Policy). The enrollment in the on-campus area of emphasis has been fewer than 5 students over the last few years; the termination of this area of emphasis will not impact course enrollment or other programs.

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?

All relevant Special Education faculty discussed the proposal to move the on-campus Area of Emphasis in Special Education under the Ed.S. degree online and to terminate the on-campus program at a program meeting on February 27, 2026. All faculty voted unanimously in favor of this change. No faculty or staff will be reallocated as the program will continue to exist, just in an online format.

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

Current students will be notified by their advisor. These students will complete the requirements for the on-campus Special Education (Ed.S.) program prior to spring 2027. There are three students in the on-campus program; two will graduate in summer 2026, and one will graduate in fall 2026.

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

There are no plans to reactivate the area of emphasis on the Athens campus.

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

Education (Ed.S.) with an Area of Emphasis in Special Education – Online

Core Courses (12 hours)

EDAP 7040E, Educational Law and Ethical Leadership (3 hours)
EDSE 7010E, Clinical Assessment in Special Education (3 hours)
EDSE 7640E, Applied Special Education Research Methods (3 hours)
EDSE 7650E, Applied Project in Special Education (3 hours)

Area of Specialization (12 hours)

Choose 12 hours from the following.

EDSE 6010E, Instructing Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3 hours)
EDSE 6070E, Behavior Management in Special Education Settings (3 hours)
EDSE 7020E, Assessment of Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7050E, Positive Behavior Supports (3 hours)
EDSE 7100E, Foundations and Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education (3 hours)
EDSE 7120E, Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7150E, Designing Reading Interventions for Special Education (3 hours)
EDSE 7160E, Communication and Language Development in Young Children (3 hours)
EDSE 7200E, Methods and Curriculum in Early Childhood Special Education (3 hours)
EDSE 7220E, Instruction of Students with High-Incidence Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7250E, Teaching Writing to Students with Disabilities (3 hours)
EDSE 7260E, Instructional Design for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3 hours)
EDSE 7770E, Practicum in Intensive Reading Intervention (3 hours)
Other courses approved by advisor

Research Courses (6 hours)

ERSH 6200E, Methods of Research in Education (3 hours)
ERSH 6300E, Applied Statistical Methods in Education (3 hours)
ERSH 6600E, Applied Educational Assessment (3 hours)
ERSH 7600E, Construction of Educational Measuring Instruments (3 hours)
ETAP(QUAL)(ERSH) 7500E, Action Research (3 hours)
QUAL 6200E, Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (3 hours)
QUAL 8400E, Qualitative Research Traditions (3 hours)
QUAL 8410E, Designing Qualitative Research (3 hours)

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to terminate the Area of Emphasis in Special Education under the major in Education (Ed.S.) on the Athens campus only

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2027

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education, Dr. Lloyd Rieber, 4/13/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 4/13/2026
- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/18/2026