



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

University Council

October 9, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

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Medicine – Erica Brownfield

Pharmacy – Duc Do

Public and International Affairs – Ryan Powers

Public Health – Heather Padilla

Social Work – Jennifer Elkins

Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig

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 to terminate the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Communication Sciences and Disorders 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 ACADEMIC PROGRAM

**Date:** July 31, 2026

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

**Department/Division:** Communication Sciences and Special Education

**Program Major(s) & degree:** Communication Sciences and Disorders (M.Ed.)

**Which campus(es) offer this area of emphasis?** Athens

**Deactivation or Termination?** Termination

**Proposed Effective Date:** Summer 2027

**Last date students will be admitted to this degree:** Summer 2026

**Last date students will complete this degree:** Spring 2027

### **Program Abstract:**

The M.Ed. in Communication Sciences and Disorders is an ASHA-accredited master's degree program in speech-language pathology. Graduates of this program are prepared to serve as licensed and certified speech-language pathologists in clinical, medical, or school-based settings. Coursework, on-campus clinical practicum, community outreach activities, and off-campus clinical internships will provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to begin their career with confidence.

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

This degree is being proposed for termination because it will be merged under a Master of Science (M.S.) in Communication Sciences and Disorders with thesis and non-thesis options.

### **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?**

Termination of this program will not weaken the master's programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders because the curriculum and outcomes will continue to be offered through the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders with thesis and non-thesis options. Faculty and staff will be notified of the termination through program communications from the program coordinator. Faculty involved with the program are already aware of and supportive of the transition to the Master of Science (M.S.) in Communication Sciences and Disorders with thesis and non-thesis options. All current students, effective summer 2027, will have their degree objective changed to the non-thesis Master of Science (M.S., Non-Thesis) in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Termination of this program will have no impact on faculty or staff assignments, as the curriculum continues to be offered and advising and coordination responsibilities will remain unchanged.

**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?**

One cohort of students will complete their degree program in Spring 2027. The second cohort of students will be notified that they will be moved to the non-thesis M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Termination of this degree will have no impact on students as the curriculum continues to be offered under a different degree designation and advising and coordination responsibilities will remain unchanged.

## **Documentation of Approval and Notification**

**Proposal:** Proposal to terminate the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Communication Sciences and Disorders

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

**Department:** Communication Sciences and Special Education

**Proposed Effective Term:** Summer 2027

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education, Dr. Jennifer Brown, 7/31/2026
- 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, 7/31/2026
- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/18/2026