



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

University Council

August 14, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

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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 – TBD

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to terminate the major in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies (B.S.A.) will be an agenda item for the August 21, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

cc: Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: July 6, 2026

School/College: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Department/Division: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Program (Major and Degree): Honors Interdisciplinary Studies (B.S.A.)

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2027

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Spring 2019

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

Note: There may be no enrollment in the program as of the termination effective date.

Program Abstract:

Provide a brief summary of the program being proposed for deactivation or termination.

The Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.) in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies (HIDS BSA) program within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) allows students in the Morehead Honors College to design individualized, interdisciplinary academic programs aligned with emerging fields and unique career goals. Students complete a customized curriculum across multiple disciplines under the guidance of faculty mentors, culminating in an honors thesis.

Despite its innovative design, the program has experienced extremely low participation, with only 11 graduates over the past 20 years and no participating students since 2019. The program has primarily served as a recruitment signal for high-achieving students rather than a widely utilized degree pathway.

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

The decision to terminate the HIDS BSA program is based on findings from the CAES Academic Program Review and PRAC Review Committee.

Key Reasons:

- Sustained low enrollment and no students entering the program since 2019
- Redundancy due to expanded and flexible curricula within existing CAES majors
- Shifts in student preferences toward structured pathways (e.g., Double Dawgs, dual majors, pre-professional programs)
- Increased advanced placement and dual enrollment credits reducing demand for customized interdisciplinary programs
- Lack of standardized student learning outcomes due to individualized program structure

The PRAC Review Committee formally recommended deactivation, citing extremely low demand and program redundancy. The College concurs with this recommendation.

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 HIDS BSA program operates as a distributed academic model and does not have dedicated faculty lines or staff positions. Therefore, impacts are minimal.

a) Notification of Faculty and Staff

- Formal written notification from the CAES Dean's Office
- Communication through department heads, academic advisors, and unit leadership
- No faculty currently serving as HIDS mentors/advisors, so direct outreach unnecessary
- Coordination with the Morehead Honors College to ensure consistent messaging

b) Reallocation of Faculty and Staff

- Effort to ensure faculty advising and mentoring efforts will be redirected to existing undergraduate majors; Honors thesis supervision; experiential learning and high-impact practices
- Faculty effort will also support emerging interdisciplinary initiatives (e.g., AI, Precision Agriculture, Data Science)
- No layoffs or position eliminations are anticipated
- Administrative responsibilities will be absorbed within existing unit structures

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?

Termination of the HIDS BSA program will not weaken other academic programs within CAES.

Rationale:

- The program is not integrated into core curricula of other majors
- It does not serve as a feeder or prerequisite for other programs
- Faculty contributions are distributed and easily reassigned

Positive Outcomes:

- Reallocation/rededication of faculty effort to high-enrollment and high-demand programs
- Increased focus on scalable interdisciplinary initiatives, including: Artificial Intelligence; Precision Agriculture; Geographic Information Systems (GIS); Data Science

These initiatives are expected to serve a broader student population and strengthen collaboration across colleges.

Continued support for high-achieving students through:

- Existing majors
- Honors thesis opportunities
- Cross-disciplinary academic pathways

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to terminate the major in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies

(B.S.A.) **College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Department: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2027

School/College:

- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean, Dr. Nick T. Place, 7/6/2026