



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

University Council

August 14, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Julie Campbell

Arts and Sciences – Casie LeGette (Arts)

Erin Dolan (Sciences)

Business – Andrew Miller

Ecology – Amanda Rugenski

Education – Melissa Freeman

Engineering – David Stooksbury

Environment and Design – Ryan Wright

Family and Consumer Sciences – Melissa Landers-Potts

Forestry and Natural Resources – Richard Chandler

Journalism and Mass Communication – Welch Suggs

Law – Joe Miller

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 – TBD

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to terminate the major in Middle Grades Education (B.S.Ed.) 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: February 9, 2026

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Educational Theory and Practice

Program (Major and Degree): Middle Grades Education (B.S.Ed.)

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2026

Last date students will be admitted to this program: Fall 2024

Last date students will graduate from this program: Spring 2026

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

Program Abstract:

The Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) in Middle Grades Education prepares candidates to teach four total content areas in Grades 4-8 in Georgia schools. Students who complete the program choose two content areas from the following as the focus of their middle grades certification: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

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

This proposal is to terminate the undergraduate major in Middle Grades Education (B.S.Ed.). The program was approved for deactivation effective fall 2025. All students enrolled in the deactivated program will graduate in spring 2026. Over the last few years, enrollment in the major has dropped dramatically, which has influenced the program's ability to meet minimum enrollment numbers in preparation courses. Limited numbers of first-year admits as well as transfer students were declaring interest in the major. In addition, the trend for careers in education appears to be growing at the master's level, where the credentials can be earned in a much shorter period of time.

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.

Students who are completing the program will graduate in Spring 2026. Faculty have shifted their attention to a preparation program at the master's level. Any candidates who express an interest in teaching in Grades 4-8 will be directed to other existing programs that certify those grade ranges, such as Elementary Education (B.S.Ed.) and secondary preparation programs in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies).

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?

As stated above, any candidates interested in certification in Grades 4-8 will be directed to other appropriate programs within the department and college. The faculty have spent the last two years augmenting the offerings at the master's level where this state certification can be obtained. Securing external funds, the faculty have crafted a school-based residency and online option for students at the master's level. In 2025-2026, enrollment at the master's level for this preparation program was 8 Athens students and 21 online students. These two options will contribute to the workforce pipeline in the state.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to terminate the major in Middle Grades Education (B.S.Ed.)

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Educational Theory and Practice

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2026

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Educational Theory and Practice, Dr. Cheryl Fields-Smith, 2/9/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 4/21/2026
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 2/9/2026