



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

University Council

October 9, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

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Graduate School – Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett

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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 Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) with a major in Special Education 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 DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: September 21, 2026

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Program (Major and Degree): Special Education (M.A.T.)

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

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2027

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

Last date students will graduate from this program: Spring 2026

Program Abstract:

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Special Education is designed for individuals seeking initial certification who hold undergraduate degrees in other fields, and who do not hold a teacher certification.

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

This proposal is to terminate the graduate major in Special Education (M.A.T.) and all areas of emphasis under the degree on the Athens campus only. The program currently offers multiple areas of emphasis which are also available under the online M.A.T. in Special Education. Over the last few years, enrollment in the major on the Athens campus has dropped dramatically, in favor of the online offerings for the degree. This has influenced the program's ability to meet minimum enrollment numbers in preparation courses.

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.

There are currently two students who are completing the program will graduate in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027, respectively. Faculty have shifted their attention to the same preparation program at the master's level which is offered online. Any candidates who express an interest in teaching in special education will be directed to this online option.

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 special education will be directed to the online option for the program. In 2025-2026, enrollment at the master's level for this preparation program was 13 online students.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Special Education on the Athens campus only

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Communication Sciences and Special Education

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2027

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education, Dr. Jennifer Brown, 7/6/2026
- 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, 7/6/2026
- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 9/28/2026