



University Council

February 6, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Julie Campbell

Arts and Sciences – Casie LeGette (Arts)

Paula Lemons (Sciences)

Business – Andrew Miller

Ecology – Amanda Rugenski

Education – Amy Murphy

Engineering – David Stooksbury

Environment and Design – Katherine Melcher

Family and Consumer Sciences – Melissa Landers-Potts

Forestry and Natural Resources – Richard Chandler

Journalism and Mass Communication – Yan Jin

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 – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost Benjamin Ayers

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – Yaw Buabeng

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to offer a new Area of Emphasis in Elementary Education under the major in Education (M.A.) will be an agenda item for the February 13, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: October 15, 2025

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Educational Theory and Practice

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

Area of Emphasis Title: Elementary Education

CIP: 13120200

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Athens

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2026

1. Area of Emphasis Description:

Provide a description of the area of emphasis, including the focus and objectives.

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Education with an Area of Emphasis in Elementary Education will enable students to explore theories, issues, and approaches in elementary education through coursework and the development of research competencies, culminating in the completion of an approved M.A. thesis. At the end of their studies, students will emerge with advanced knowledge of the variety of issues inherent in the study of curriculum development, elementary schools, and society, and will be prepared to conduct research.

2. Area of Emphasis Requirements:

Include prefixes, numbers, and titles of required courses, number of credit hours required, residency requirements (if any), and grade requirements (if any). Attach a list of requirements for the major, which includes the new area of emphasis.

The program of study for the Area of Emphasis in Elementary Education requires at least 30 credit hours distributed as follows:

Elementary Education (9 hours)

EDEL 7010, Trends and Issues in Elementary Education (3 hours)

EDEL 7020, Theory and Curriculum in Elementary Education (3 hours)

EDEL(EDEC) 8030, Research Perspectives in Early Childhood and Elementary Education (3 hours)

Curriculum and Instruction (9 hours)

Choose 9 hours from the following:

EDEL 7050, Teaching in Elementary Schools (P-5) (3 hours)

EDEL 7110, The Educational Role of Play in Elementary Education (3 hours)

EDEL 7160, Instructional Strategies for Elementary Education (3 hours)

EDEL 7170, Evaluation of the Elementary School (3 hours)
EDEL 7200, Developmental Issues of Elementary School Learners (3 hours)
ETAP 7420, Ethical and Justice Frameworks for Education (3 hours)
ETAP 8160, Teaching and Learning in Neoliberal Times (3 hours)
ETAP 8180, Research in Multicultural Teacher Education (3 hours)
Appropriate course(s) approved by the faculty advisor

Research Courses (3 hours)

Choose 3 hours from the following:

EDEL 7650, Literature Review in Elementary Education (3 hours)
ERSH 6200, Methods of Research in Education (3 hours)
ERSH 6300, Applied Statistical Methods in Education (3 hours)
ETAP(QUAL)(ERSH) 7500, Action Research (3 hours)
QUAL 7800, Topics in Educational Research (1-3 hours)
QUAL 8400, Qualitative Research Traditions (3 hours)

Thesis (3 hours)

ETAP 7300, Master's Thesis – **NEW**

Electives (6 hours)

Choose 6 hours of elective courses.

Total = 30 hours

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Area of Emphasis in Elementary Education under Education (M.A.)

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Educational Theory and Practice

Proposed Effective Term: Summer 2026

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Educational Theory and Practice, Dr. Cheryl Fields-Smith, 10/15/2025
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 11/11/2025
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 10/15/2025
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 1/21/2026