



University Council

February 27, 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 for an Area of Emphasis in Middle Grades Education under the major in Education (M.A.) will be an agenda item for the March 6, 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: December 1, 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: Middle Grades Education

CIP: 13120303

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 Middle Grades Education will enable students to explore theories, issues, and approaches in middle grades 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, middle grades 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 Middle Grades Education emphasis requires at least 30 credit hours distributed as follows:

Middle Grades Education (9 hours)

Choose 9 hours from the following:

EDMG 7030, The Middle Grades (4-8): Creating Safer and Equitable Spaces for Young Adolescents (3 hours)

EDMG 7050, Critical Constructions of Young Adolescents (3 hours)

EDMG 7200, Trends and Issues in Middle Grades Education (3 hours)

EDMG 7300, Teaching Young Adolescents with an Equity-Oriented Inquiry Stance (3 hours)

Curriculum and Instruction (6 hours)

Choose 6 hours from the following:

EDMG(ETAP) 7060S, Theory and Practice of Service-Learning in P-12 Settings (3 hours)

EDMG 7080, Equity-Oriented Curriculum Planning in the Middle Grades (4-8) (3 hours)

EDMG 7090, Equity-Oriented Instructional Strategies for Young Adolescents (3 hours)

ETAP 7310, Critical Studies in Educational Theory & Practice (3 hours)

ETAP 7400E, Personalized Learning for Students and Educators (3 hours)

ETAP 7410E, Hunger in Our Schools (3 hours)

ETAP 7420, Ethical and Justice Frameworks for Education (3 hours)

ETAP 7610, Classroom Management in Culturally Responsive Classrooms (3 hours)

ETAP 7700, Sustainability Education: Promising Practices (3 hours)

ETAP 7800, Critical Pedagogy (3 hours)

Other appropriate course(s) approved by the faculty advisor

Electives (6 hours)

Appropriate courses approved by the faculty advisor

Research (6 hours)

Choose 6 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)

Other appropriate course(s) approved by the faculty advisor

Thesis (3 hours)

ETAP 7300, Master's Thesis (3 hours) – **NEW**

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Area of Emphasis in Middle Grades 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, 12/1/2025
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 1/21/2026
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 2/6/2026