

**Graduate Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 3:30 p.m.**  
**327 Brooks Hall**  
(The Bylaws prohibit representation by proxy.)

**AGENDA**

**I. Reading, Correction and Approval of Minutes**  
(October 22, 2025)

**II. Graduate Council Committee Reports**

- A. Appeals Committee  
Committee Report (Craig Osenberg, Chair)
- B. Program Committee  
Committee Report (Jeff Mullen, Chair)

*Action Item 1:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to offer a new Area of Emphasis (AoE) in Elementary Education under the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Education.

*Action Item 2:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Athens Campus based Tier I Leadership Area of Emphasis (AoE) under the Master of Education (MED) degree in Education Administration and Policy and Policy and Graduate Certificate (CERT).

*Action Item 3:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to change the name of the Area of Emphasis (AoE) in Quantitative Methodology to an AoE in Measurement, Data Science, and Statistics (under the MA, MED, and PhD degrees in Educational Psychology).

- C. Policy and Planning Committee  
Committee Report (Bart Wojdynski, Chair)

*Action Item 1:* Proposed policy changes to “Probation & Dismissal” (see document). *Action Item 2:* Proposed policy changes to “Dismissal Appeals” (see document).

*Action Item 3:* Proposed new TOEFL scores for admissions (see document).

**III. Information Items**

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 66 new courses, 95 course revisions, and 8 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall

**IV. Adjourn**

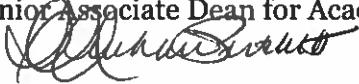


**Mary Frances Early  
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**Office of Academic Programs**

**TO:** Dr. Ron Walcott, Dean of the Graduate School  
Fiona Liken, Associate Vice President for Instruction and Registrar

**FROM:** Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs  


**DATE:** November 11, 2025

**RE:** Area of Emphasis in Elementary Education under the MA in Education

Please find attached a proposal to create an area of emphasis in Elementary Education under the MA in Education.

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The College of Education's Curriculum Committee approved this proposal on October 27, 2025.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: 10-15-2025

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Educational Theory and Practice

Program (Major and Degree): M.A.

Area of Emphasis Title: Elementary Education

CIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Athens

Proposed Effective Term: Upon approval

### 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 Elementary Education enables 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 they will be prepared to conduct research. Students must meet all grade, GPA, and other requirements set by the Graduate School for all master's degrees, and must meet all other requirements set by the Mary Frances Early College of Education for an emphasis under the degree Master of Arts in Education.

### 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 Elementary Education emphasis requires at least 30 credit hours distributed as follows:

#### **Elementary Education, 9 credit hours (required)**

- EDEL 7010(E) (3) Trends and Issues in Elementary Education
- EDEL 7020(E) (3) Theory and Curriculum in Elementary Education
- EDEL 8030(E) (3) Research Perspectives in Early Childhood and Elementary Education

#### **Curriculum & Instruction, 9 credit hours (required), choose among:**

- EDEL 7050(E) (3) Teaching in Elementary Schools P-5
- EDEL 7110(E) (3) The Educational Role of Play in Elementary Education
- EDEL 7160(E) (3) Instructional Strategies for Elementary Education

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

**Electives, 6 credit hours (recommended)**

**Research Courses, 3 credit hours (required), choose among:**

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

**Thesis, 3 credit hours (required)**

- ETAP 7300 (E) (3) (NEW COURSE) Master's Thesis

**3. Approvals:**

*Cheryl Fields-Smith*

Department Head

*Denise A. Spangler*

Dean of School/College

Dean of Graduate School

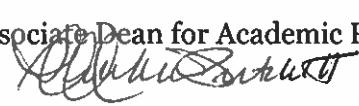


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**Office of Academic Programs**

**TO:** Dr. Ron Walcott, Dean of the Graduate School  
Fiona Liken, Associate Vice President for Instruction and Registrar

**FROM:** Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs  


**DATE:** October 28, 2025

**RE:** Termination of Tier I – Athens Campus

Please find attached two proposals to terminate the following programs at the Athens campus:

- Termination of the Athens Campus based Tier I Leadership Area of Emphasis under the MED in Educational Administration and Policy
- Termination of the Athens Campus based Tier I Leadership Graduate Certificate

The College of Education's Curriculum Committee approved this proposal on October 27, 2025.

## PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: October 4, 2025

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy

Program (Major and Degree): Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership Tier I

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens and Online (proposal is to terminate the Athens campus only)

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Summer 2026

Last date students will be admitted to this program: no students are enrolled

Last date students will graduate from this program: not applicable, all students are in the online certificate 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.*

This program is designed for working education professionals who bring at least three years of relevant or transferrable work experience. Tier I leadership certification courses in Educational Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia prepare students for initial leadership certification and place a strong emphasis on knowledge of effective instructional leadership practices that directly impact teaching and learning.

**For Terminated Programs:**

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

In Fall 2022, the faculty submitted a proposal to offer the Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership Tier I as an online program. Since that time, campus-based applications for the same certificate have dwindled in favor of the online program. In recent semesters, the number of applicants enrolled in the face-to-face campus certificate has been zero. Online enrollment since Fall 2023 has risen to 27 students. Given the expressed interest in the online certificate from potential application as well as enrolled students, it appears that the Athens-based face-to-face option for the certificate is no longer needed.

2. What will be done to minimize the impact of the deactivation or 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 deactivation or termination, and b) how faculty and staff will be reallocated.

Faculty and staff have been reassigned to the online variant of the program. The faculty have initiated this proposal. There is no change in staffing as the graduate program administrator has just shifted their work on admission and other graduate school processes from serving campus-based students to supporting the online students.

3. What will be done to insure that deactivation or termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

No impact. The shift to online offering has actually increased enrollment in the certificate. The faculty have already balanced that instruction and program delivery with their other graduate programs.

**Approvals:**



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Department Head



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Dean of School/College

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Dean of Graduate School

## PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: 10/4/2025

School/College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy

Area of emphasis to be terminated: Tier I Leadership Certification

Major(s) and degree(s) the area of emphasis is offered under? MEd In Educational Administration and Policy

Which campus(es) offer this area of emphasis? Athens and Online (proposal is to terminate the Athens campus only)

Proposed effective date: Summer 2026

Last date students will be admitted to this area of emphasis: no students are enrolled

Last date students will complete this area of emphasis: not applicable, all students are in the online program

### Program Abstract:

Provide a brief summary of the area of emphasis being proposed for termination.

This program is designed for working education professionals who bring at least three years of relevant or transferrable work experience. Tier 1 leadership certification courses in Educational Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia prepare students for initial leadership certification and place a strong emphasis on knowledge of effective instructional leadership practices that directly impact teaching and learning.

### 1. Why is this area of emphasis being proposed for termination?

In Fall 2022, the faculty submitted a proposal to offer the MEd degree in Educational Administration and Policy with an Area of Emphasis in Tier I Leadership Certification as an online program. Since that time, campus-based applications for the same degree and area of emphasis have dwindled in favor of the online program. In recent semesters, the number of applicants enrolled in the face-to-face campus program has been zero. Online enrollment since Fall 2023 has risen to 43 students. Given the expressed interest in the online program from potential application as well as enrolled students, it appears that the Athens-based face-to-face option for the area of emphasis is no longer needed.

### 2. What will be done to ensure that termination of the area of emphasis does not weaken the major(s) under which it is offered?

The data suggest that the online variant of the program is the desired options for those seeking the credential. Given the lack of enrollment on the Athens campus, there clear evidence that the campus-based program is no longer needed.

### 3. How will faculty and staff be notified of the termination? Will termination of the area of emphasis have any impact on the faculty and staff offering the area of emphasis?

The faculty have initiated this proposal. All faculty who taught in the campus-based program have transitioned their teaching to the online variant of the program. There is no change in staffing as the graduate program administrator has just shifted their work on admission and other graduate school processes from serving campus-based students to supporting the online students.

**4. How will students be notified of the termination? How will students currently in the area of emphasis be advised to complete the requirements?**

No students are currently enrolled in the campus-based program. This item is not applicable.

**5. What plans, if any, are there for subsequent reactivation of the area of emphasis?**

Given the robust nature of enrollment in the online option, there is no plan to reactivate the campus-based option.

**6. Provide a revised program of study/Bulletin layout of the major's requirements once the area of emphasis has been removed.**

There is no change in the program as the campus-based option and the online option had identical curriculum.

**Fall I**

**Course      Title**

EDAP 7020E Instructional Leadership for School Improvement

EDAP 8115E Educational Leadership for Student Success

EDAP 7801E Clinical Practices in Educational Leadership I

**Spring**

**Course      Title**

EDAP 7040E Education Law and Ethical Leadership

EDAP 7050E Talent Management for Continuous Improvement

EDAP 7802E Clinical Practices in Educational Leadership II

**Summer**

**Course      Title**

EDAP 7030E Developing, Supporting, and Sustaining a Positive Learning Environment

EDAP 7600E Data Analysis for Practitioners

EDAP 8405E Leadership in a Diverse Society

**Fall**

**Course      Title**

EDAP 7060E Policies, Systems, and Resources for Educational Enterprises

EDAP 7803E Clinical Practices in Educational Leadership III

EDAP 8390E School, Family, and Community Connections

**Approvals:**

*A. Paulson*

*Denise A. Spangler*

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Department Head

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Dean of School/College

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Dean of Graduate School



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**Office of Academic Programs**

TO: Dr. Ron Walcott, Dean of the Graduate School  
Fiona Liken, Associate Vice President for Instruction and Registrar

FROM: Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs  
*Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett*

DATE: October 28, 2025

RE: Name Change- Area of Emphasis under the MED in Educational Psychology

Please find attached a proposal to change the area of emphasis name in Quantitative Methodology under the MA, MED, PHD in Educational Psychology.

The College of Education's Curriculum Committee approved this proposal on October 27, 2025.



**College of Education**  
*Department of Educational Psychology*  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

October 14, 2025

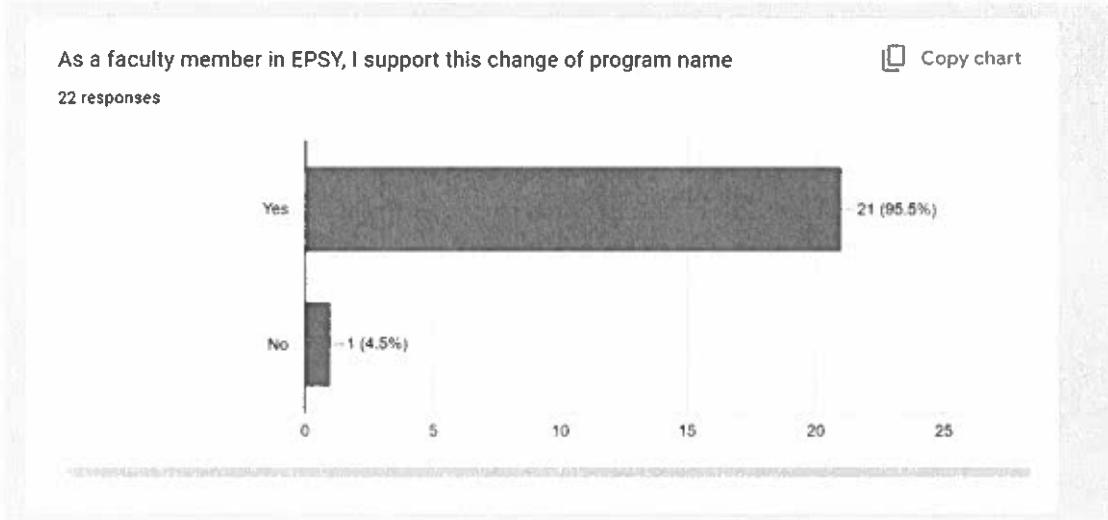
To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Educational Psychology is comprised of four areas of emphasis: Quantitative Methodology, Applied Cognition and Development, School Psychology, and Gifted and Creative Education. In our October faculty meeting, our Quantitative Methods faculty explained their request to change their program name (i.e., area of emphasis) to Measurement, Data Science, and Statistics (MDSS). The Department faculty discussed this request and conducted an electronic vote. As of 10/14/2025, 21 of 22 faculty who voted were in favor of the name change. A screen shot of the vote tally is included in this letter.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Reschly, PhD, NCSP  
Professor and Department Head  
[reschly@uga.edu](mailto:reschly@uga.edu); 706.542.4110



## ACADEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGE

Date: October 14, 2025

Department/Division: Educational Psychology

School/College/Unit: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2026

### PROGRAM NAME CHANGES:

Current Program Name: Area of Emphasis in Quantitative Methodology (under the degree Educational Psychology Master of Arts, Master of Education, and Doctor of Philosophy)

Proposed Program Name: Area of Emphasis in Measurement, Data Science, and Statistics (under the degree Educational Psychology Master of Arts, Master of Education, and Doctor of Philosophy)

### COURSE PREFIX CHANGES:

Current Course Prefix and Name: ERSH

Proposed Course Prefix and Name: ERSH

**JUSTIFICATION:** We propose renaming our Quantitative Methodology program to Measurement, Data Science, and Statistics (MDSS) to better reflect current trends in our field. The new name emphasizes the growing use of AI and data-driven tools in measurement and assessment, aligns with our new faculty expertise from the AI initiative, and highlights our expanding focus on computational and applied data science methods. This change will help us attract a broader range of students, strengthen their career preparation, and align our program with emerging interdisciplinary directions in research and education.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

No curricular changes are proposed as a result of this change.

### PROGRAM OF STUDY:

The programs of study for the Master of Arts, Master of Education, and Doctor of Philosophy degree would remain the same.

### APPROVALS:

Attach documentation of approval from all involved units.

*NOTE: When the new name is effective, the old name will no longer be available and all students will be moved to the new program name.*

## Proposed policy changes to “Probation & Dismissal”

Current policy is posted at: <https://policy.uga.edu/policies/#/programs/SJodDPOua>

The purpose of these proposed revisions (italicized and underlined) is to clarify that the dismissals due to findings of violation from other UGA units (e.g., EOO, Academic Honesty, Student Conduct) are administered by the Graduate School; these reasons for dismissal were previously listed under Graduate Program Probation & Dismissal. Program dismissals are triggered by performance related to program-specific requirements, milestones, and/or professional standards.

### **1. Graduate School Probation and Dismissal**

Students with a cumulative graduate course GPA below 3.0 for two consecutive terms are placed on academic probation by the Graduate School. They then must make a 3.0 or higher GPA (in graduate courses) every succeeding semester until the cumulative graduate GPA is 3.0 or above. If they make below a 3.0 semester graduate GPA while on probation, they are dismissed. When students repeat a graduate course, the last grade will be utilized to calculate the cumulative graduate GPA that is used for probation, dismissal, admission to candidacy and graduation. Grades of S, U, I, and V will not be used in calculating the cumulative graduate average. However, when a grade of I converts to F, this may result in an action of probation or dismissal for the semester in which the conversion takes place, even if the student is not registered for the semester in which it converted.

*Students may also be dismissed by the Graduate School as a result of sanctions issued by of one of the following UGA offices: Office of Academic Honesty and Student Appeals, Equal Opportunity Office, Office of Research, Office of Student Conduct.*

### **2. Graduate Program Probation and Dismissal**

Dismissal of graduate students at the program level will follow policies and procedures adopted by the program and communicated in the program handbook. The program must immediately notify the Graduate School of a program-level dismissal. Program dismissal triggers dismissal from the UGA Graduate School, unless the student remains in good standing in another program at UGA.

Students may be placed on probation or dismissed by their academic program at the end of any semester for the following reasons:

- a. Failure to pass comprehensive or other required examinations
- b. Inadequate academic progress
- c. Failure to meet program requirements (academic, professional)
- d. Violation of ethical (professional) standards in program's handbook (or professional society)
- e. No clear path to degree (see below)

Graduate students who cannot identify a major professor (excluding students on rotations) or who cannot form an advisory committee shall be placed on a status called "No clear path to degree completion." This status is distinct from "Not in good standing", which refers to academic status. Students will be given one semester after being placed on this status by their unit/program to identify a major professor or form a committee. Directors of graduate studies should work closely with the student to try to rectify the problem. If the situation is not resolved during this semester, the student can be dismissed from the program.

**3. Academic Advising while on Academic Probation**

Graduate students on academic probation must complete an academic probation advisement form prior to registration. Students on Academic Probation may not pre-register for classes. The registration flag will be moved to the next semester only after grades for the current semester have been reviewed.

**4. Graduate Assistant Eligibility while on Academic Probation**

Graduate students who are placed on academic warning may not have their assistantship removed unless it is deemed by the major professor (if applicable), in consultation with the director of graduate studies and unit head, that the activities associated with the assistantship are contributing to the student's impaired academic performance. In this case, an alternative source of funding that will allow the student to focus on academic performance should be considered. If a student is subsequently placed on probation, the decision to change the source of or remove an assistantship shall be determined by the major professor (if applicable) in consultation with the director of graduate studies and unit head.

## **5. Dismissal Appeals**

Students who are dismissed by the Graduate School for academic reasons may appeal the dismissal to the Graduate Council. The appeal must be submitted to the Dean within 30 calendar days following receipt of notice of dismissal. Information concerning the appeal process may be obtained in the Graduate School. *Dismissals by the Graduate School due to violations of (i) the Academic Honesty Policy, (ii) the Sexual Misconduct Policy or Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, (iii) the Research Misconduct Policy, or (iv) Student Code of Conduct cannot be appealed to Graduate Council.* See the Graduate School Appeals policy for more information.

Dismissal by a program may be appealed to the Graduate Council after all avenues of appeal have been exhausted at the department/unit, school, and/or college level. This should be completed within 30 calendar days of the decision at the previous level.

## **6. Readmission Following Dismissal**

If a student is dismissed by a program, they may reapply to the Graduate School for admission to the same graduate program or a different degree-granting unit, unless the dismissal was the result of (i) sanctions issued by *one of the following UGA offices: Office of Academic Honesty and Student Appeals, Equal Opportunity Office, Office of Research, or Office of Student Conduct,* or (ii) a violation of ethical/professional standards in program's handbook (or professional society).

## **Current: Dismissal Appeals**

There are two types of dismissal appeals: departmental dismissals and Graduate School dismissals.

### *Departmental Dismissals*

Students wishing to appeal a departmental dismissal must first appeal to their department and then their college. After an unfavorable decision at the college level, the student has 30 days to contact the Graduate School to initiate their appeal.

### *Graduate School Dismissals*

Students dismissed by the Graduate School must appeal to the Graduate School first.

## **Revised: Dismissal Appeals**

There are two types of dismissal appeals: program dismissals and Graduate School dismissals.

### *Program Dismissals*

Students wishing to appeal a program dismissal for any reason must first appeal to the academic unit/department overseeing the program and then to the college within which the academic unit/department sits. The procedures for such appeals will be established by the academic unit/department and college. If the student receives an unfavorable decision at the college level and wishes to continue their appeal, the student has 30 calendar days to contact the Graduate School to initiate their appeal. A program dismissal appeal to the Graduate School will be reviewed in accordance with the Graduate School's appeal procedures set forth here [LINK](#).

### *Graduate School Dismissals*

Students wishing to appeal a dismissal from the Graduate School due to violations of Graduate School policy may appeal directly to the Graduate School. Dismissals by the Graduate School resulting from sanctions imposed as a result of violations of: (i) the Academic Honesty Policy, (ii) the Sexual Misconduct Policy or Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, (iii) the Research Misconduct Policy, or (iv) the Student Code of Conduct are not appealable to the Graduate School.

New TOEFL Scores are effective for exams taken after January 21, 2026, requiring updated admissions standards. Below are proposed updated cutoff scores, based on published equivalents (see link) and comparator schools' updates (e.g., Ohio State 4.0; Penn State 4.5, Auburn 4.5, Oklahoma 4.5).

#### Graduate Admissions

	Proposed TOEFL score	<u>Equivalent scores</u>	Current cutoffs
Overall	4.5	TOEFL 86+ (note that TOEFL 4 = 72+)	TOEFL 80 IELTS 6.5
Speaking	4	TOEFL 20-22 IELTS 6	TOEFL 20 IELTS 6
Writing	4	TOEFL 17-20 IELTS 6.5	TOEFL 20 IELTS 6