

**Proposal to Terminate Undergraduate Degree in  
Turf Management/Horticulture Department**

**I. Basic Information**

1. Institution – University of Georgia  
Date – January 5, 2004
2. School/College – College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
3. Department/Division - Horticulture
4. Program Degree – Bachelors of Science in Agriculture (B.S.A.)  
Major – <sup>Turfgrass</sup>~~Turf~~ Management
5. Deactivation
6. Last date students will be admitted to this program - 1/8/2004
7. Abstract of the deactivated or terminated program:

The Horticulture shares the Turf Management Major with the Crop and Soil Sciences Department. No students have ever graduated with a Turf Management Major in the Horticulture Department. Upon the recommendation of a recent CREES review, the Department of Horticulture faculty voted to terminate the major.

8. Signatures

*Dave Kails*  
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Department Head  
01/13/04

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of College  
*DAK*

## **II. Conditions for Deactivating**

1. Copy of pertinent portion of CREES review recommending termination of program is attached.

2. **Reasons for deactivation**

The Turf Management Major has been shared between the Horticulture Department and the Crop and Soil Sciences Department. All students who have ever enrolled in the Turf Management Major in the Horticulture Department have either transferred to the Turf Management Major in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department, transferred to another major in the Horticulture Department, or transferred to another major. Because no students have ever graduated from the Horticulture Department with a Major in Turf Management, the 2002 CREES review of the Horticulture Department recommended that the department terminate the major.

3. **Plans for Current Students:** All Turf Management students currently in the Horticulture Department will be encouraged to change their major to the Turf Management Major in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department.

4. **Impact on Faculty.** Because of the low numbers of current majors, faculty will not be impacted.

5. **Impact on other Programs.** Because of the low numbers of current majors, no programs will be impacted.

6. **Future reinstatement plans.** No plans are being considered to reinstate the major.

## Teaching

The department offers a bachelor's degree in three majors: horticulture, landscape and grounds management, and turfgrass management. Eleven faculty are engaged in teaching. Current instructors and other members of the faculty who have taught in the recent past clearly are regarded by students as outstanding educators who show great enthusiasm, high competency, and strong effectiveness. Several of the department's instructors are nationally and internationally recognized as leaders in their discipline. Students at The University of Georgia are fortunate to have the opportunity to have their learning guided by a teaching faculty of this caliber. The review team applauds the department's commitment to its instructional programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is particularly significant that the faculty continues to demonstrate its desire to refine and expand course offerings during a time of budget cuts and following a nine-year period during which teaching EFT has reduced from 7.8 to 4.6.

Advising is another strength of the teaching program. Students can select and change their faculty advisors. Our sense is that students are advised effectively, and that faculty advisors are recognized for their efforts. While the burden of advising appears to be distributed inequitably, we did not perceive any major negative consequences of this.

In general, the committee is supportive of the way majors are structured within the department. We believe the landscape and grounds management major is particularly well structured to serve its purpose of producing students who are equipped to enter the growing horticultural industries. We have concerns about the horticulture and turfgrass management majors, however. As is reflected in one of our recommendations, we believe the base of science in the horticulture major should be bolstered, both early and late in the degree program. The turfgrass major has not produced a single graduate since 1993. While that would suggest the major within horticulture should be eliminated, it is serving a role in the recruitment of students to the other horticulture majors via transfers. There also is a perception that maintaining the turfgrass major in horticulture serves to sustain the integrity of the curriculum in plant science. The department should consider whether these are legitimate reasons for retaining the turfgrass major. Is the rather minor recruitment role worth a zero graduation record? Are there better ways to ensure a suitable curriculum? What price will the department pay within the university system for reporting a zero graduation record in one of its majors? The review team urges the faculty to contemplate these issues.

The graduate program is thoughtfully managed and is taken very seriously by most graduate faculty. It is appropriately flexible to accommodate the diversity that exists in horticultural research. A primary concern expressed by current graduate students was an inadequate number of upper-division courses. The faculty has been addressing this appropriately by developing a timely series of one-credit courses narrowly focused on relevant topics. Although the graduate students expressed a desire for a single, comprehensive research methods class, the review team supports the present approach of a series of monographs.