



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 21, 2012

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2011-2012

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Graduate School - Dr. Tracie E. Costantino

Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Marshall Mosher

Graduate Student Representative – Mr. Zachary Watne

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for the existing major in Interdisciplinary Studies (A.B.) to be offered on the Griffin Campus will be an agenda item for the March 28, 2012, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead
Dr. Laura D. Jolly



The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

March 26, 2012

Professor Jere Morehead
Senior VP for Academic Affairs & Provost
The University of Georgia

Dear Jere:

The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences is requesting approval to offer the existing Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) major under the Bachelor of Arts degree as an external degree on the Griffin campus.

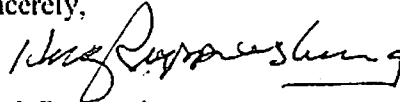
In Fall 2007, the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and the Terry College of Business each launched an undergraduate degree-completion program at the UGA Griffin Campus, joining the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, which were already offering such programs, and the College of Education and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, which were offering graduate programs, the M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees in Mathematics Education and the Master of Agricultural Leadership, respectively.

For its initial undergraduate degree program on the Griffin Campus, the Franklin College chose to offer a major in Microbiology under the Bachelor of Science degree because the number one choice of community members was a science degree that would allow them to meet requirements for admission to medical, dental, pharmacy, or veterinary school and that would prepare them for the growing number of biotechnology and life sciences jobs in the metro-Atlanta area. In addition, the Microbiology degree program would draw upon the expertise of many of the research scientists already on the Griffin Campus, providing opportunities for Microbiology majors to do directed research and/or work as student workers in research laboratories.

Now almost four and a half years later, the UGA Griffin Campus offers only eight undergraduate degree programs, with seven falling into one of two broad categories: business (B.S.A. in Agribusiness, B.S.A. in Food Industry Marketing and Administration, B.S.F.C.S. in Consumer Economics, and B.B.A. in General Business) and the biological sciences (B.S.A. in Biological Science, B.S.E.S. in Environmental Resource Science, and B.S. in Microbiology). The only undergraduate degree program outside of these two main areas is the B.S.Ed. in Special Education. This limited range of degree programs does not satisfy the demand in the community for majors in the social sciences, especially popular majors like psychology, sociology, and criminal justice.

In order to expand the opportunity for students to take courses outside the business and science areas, the Franklin College is proposing to offer the IDS major and allow students to create interdisciplinary programs that include sociology and psychology courses. As with all courses, including those taught on the Griffin campus, the decisions of whether to offer a course and who will teach that course will be determined by the academic department with approval of the college. Both the Sociology and Psychology Departments support this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Ruppensburg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Hugh Ruppensburg
Interim Dean