



University Council

January 13, 2023

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2022-2023

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to offer the existing major in Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum online will be an agenda item for the January 20, 2023, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

## PROPOSAL FOR AN ONLINE PROGRAM

**Date:** September 12, 2022

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

**Department/Division:** Communication Science and Special Education

**Program:** Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** General Curriculum

**Proposed Effective Date:** Summer 2023

### 1. Assessment

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Special Education leads to initial certificate for students who hold undergraduate degrees in other fields, and who do not hold a teacher certification. The curriculum includes required courses and applied research individualized to the student's career objectives, allowing students to gain advanced knowledge and skills in various special education topic areas and across the lifespan.

The existing pool of qualified applicants for Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum is low. One of the purposes of gaining approval as a fully online program is to increase the attractiveness of the program to teachers who are working on provisional certificates, and who need to be enrolled in a teacher certification program to earn full licensure.

### 2. Admission Requirements

All requirements for admission to the online Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum will be the same as those for the existing on-campus Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum.

Students who meet all of the following requirements are eligible to apply:

- Professional preparation: Earned, or will have earned, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution before the date of enrollment at the University of Georgia
- GPA: Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken
- TOEFL: Foreign applicants will also need to score a minimum of 20 points each on the Speaking and Writing sections of the TOEFL with an overall minimum score of 80. Test scores must be within 5 years from the date of application.

The state requires that all candidates have a minimum 2.5 GPA on undergraduate or previous graduate work. Go to the [Georgia Professional Standards Commission website](#) for details.

In the Graduate School application, students should upload the following items:

1. *Statement of Purpose*: Please submit a two page, single-spaced statement of purpose, outlining your teaching philosophy, experience, and career goals, as well as answering the following questions:
  - What types of disabilities do you have experience with and envision yourself working with?
  - In what setting would you like to work (e.g., school, clinic, home-based)?
  - What is your primary age/grade of interest?
2. *Resume/CV*
3. *Three Letters of Recommendation*: Applicants will be admitted based on the faculty's evaluation of undergraduate GPA, GRE/MAT (and TOEFL where relevant) scores, quality of the essay, letters of recommendation, and resume. The GRE is not required for acceptance into this program.

### **3. Program Content**

The curriculum of the online Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum will be equivalent to the curriculum of the existing on-campus Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum. The criteria for electives or substitutions for specific requirements will be equivalent online.

The program of study requires 36 credit hours of coursework. This does not include EDSE 2000E, Survey of Special Education (3 hours) or transfer equivalent, which is a prerequisite for many of the required courses.

- EDSE 6040E, Professional Practice in Special Education (3 hours)
- EDSE 6070E, Behavior Management in Special Education Settings (3 hours)
- EDSE 7020E, Assessment of Students with Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities (3 hours)
- EDSE 7050E, Positive Behavior Supports (3 hours)
- EDSE 7120E, Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities (3 hours)
- EDSE 7150E, Designing Reading Interventions for Special Education (3 hours)
- EDSE 7220E, Instruction of Students with High-Incidence Disabilities (3 hours)
- EDSE 7250E, Teaching Writing to Students with Disabilities (3 hours)
- EDSE 7400E, Collaboration Among Families and Professionals (3 hours)
- EDSE 7440E, Practicum in Special Education (3 hours)
- EDSE 7460E, Internship in Special Education (3 hours)
- EDSE 7770E, Practicum in Intensive Reading Intervention (3 hours)

### **4. Student Support Services**

Advising services will be provided by Special Education program faculty. Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor, and they will meet regularly with that advisor either on-campus or using virtual meeting platforms. Additionally, each graduate student in the Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum will have access to technological services and supports through the Office of Instructional Technology within the College Of Education (CoE). The COE Office of Academic Programs will provide resources to assist students with career development. Like all students at the university, students will have access to college-wide resources like the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of

Student Care and Outreach. Students with disabilities can register and be assigned a counselor within the Disability Resource Center.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

Residence requirements for students in the Online Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum will be identical to those established for students in the existing on-campus Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum.

## **6. Program Management**

The Special Education Program Director, with the support of the staff Program Coordinator, will serve to maintain program processes and procedures. Additionally, Special Education faculty serving as advisors to students in the online program will provide support for program maintenance. Special Education faculty who are serving as instructors of online course offerings will maintain curricular and instructional quality. Monthly program meetings will allow faculty to collaborate and continuously evaluate program needs. Annual review of program Student Learning Objectives will allow faculty to further assess student success and program effectiveness. The deadline for applying to the Online Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum is April 1<sup>st</sup>, and students will matriculate in the summer semester only. The duration of the 36-credit hour program is four semesters, and the anticipated start semester is Summer 2023. There is no duplicate program in this area.

## **7. Library and Laboratory Resources**

Online UGA library resources already exist that are adequate to support this program. No laboratory is needed.

## **8. Budget**

There are no foreseeable start-up costs to establishing a fully Online Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum as an additional offering to the existing on-campus Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum. All required courses in the existing on-campus Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum are currently offered in an online format, and those courses are generally operating below full capacity. New students entering the Online Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum would register for the already offered online versions of those required courses. There are no projected expenses for the first cycle of students due to these factors. Additional costs that may be associated with future cycles of students would be dependent upon student enrollment. If future student enrollment exceeds current capacity in existing courses, future costs would include funds for the hiring of part-time instructors to cover increased course demand.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

There are no costs to online students that go beyond those normally associated with the on-campus program.

## **10. E-Rate**

No e-rate will be charged.

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Offer the Existing Major in Special Education (M.A.T.) with an Area of Emphasis in General Curriculum Online

**College:** Mary Frances Early College of Education

**Department:** Communication Sciences and Special Education

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2023

### Approvals:

- Communication Sciences and Special Education Department Head, Dr. Bethany Hamilton-Jones, 9/20/22
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 9/29/22
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 11/14/22