



University Council

April 10, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2019-2020

John Maerz, Chair

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Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon

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Public Health – Brittani Harmon

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Susan Sanchez

Graduate School – Amy Medlock

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Melissa Hevener

Graduate Student Representative – Jordan Henley

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to terminate the Undergraduate Certificate in African American Studies will be an agenda item for the April 17, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

# PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

**Date:** January 13, 2020

**School/College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department/Division:** Institute for African American Studies

**Program (Major and Degree):** Undergraduate Certificate in African American Studies

**Which campus(es) offer this program?** Athens

**Deactivation or Termination?** Termination

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2020

**Last date students will be admitted to this program:** Spring 2020

**Last date students will graduate from this program:** Spring 2019

*Note: There may be no enrollment in the program as of the termination effective date.*

## **Program Abstract:**

The Undergraduate Certificate in African American Studies was intended to strengthen and facilitate research on Africa in ways which we hoped would make the University more attractive to outstanding scholars doing research in Africa for undergraduate students wishing to specialize in some aspect of the continent.

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

The Institute for African American Studies (AFAM) proposes termination of the undergraduate certificate for the following reasons:

- Only one student has completed the certificate program in the last six years.
- AFAM faculty approved termination of the certificate during the December 2019 faculty meeting.

## **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.**

It is not anticipated that there will be an impact on the personal or professional lives of faculty, staff, and students due to the termination of the Undergraduate Certificate in African American Studies. The core faculty has voted on the termination of the certificate and agree that it should be terminated. In addition, faculty will not need to be reallocated because the courses will continue to be offered as part of the minor and major in African American Studies.

## **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?**

It is anticipated that the termination of the certificate will strengthen the minor, which is already a vital program. A minor program of study is more beneficial to students in African American Studies than an undergraduate certificate in the same discipline. If a student were originally pursuing the undergraduate certificate, they will be encouraged to instead pursue the minor.

**4. State the plans for allowing students currently enrolled in the program to complete degree requirements, including specific information on: a) how students will be notified of the program deactivation, and b) how students will be advised on completing the program.**

The change will be communicated via email to the AFAM student listserv, AFAM faculty listserv, and university academic advising community. According to the data, there are four students currently completing the certificate. They will be asked to switch to the minor.

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Termination of the Undergraduate Certificate in African American Studies

**College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department:** Institute for African American Studies

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2020

Department:

- Institute for African American Studies Director Dr. Carolyn Medine, 1/22/20

School/College:

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 2/19/20