



November 18, 2016

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Please accept this letter as notification of intent to phase out the current program, the Master of Arts in Special Education effective May 31, 2017. The Master of Arts in Special Education degree is a program within the Department of Psychology, Counseling and Special Education, within the College of Education and Human Services.

After discussions with faculty in the department, consultation with the dean of the college, and with the Provost's approval, this program is now being submitted to the Commission as a request for closing. This degree will be terminated due to lack of enrollment and low student interest. The MS/MEd in Special Education programs will continue to be offered, which are the programs our students routinely select. A Teach-Out Plan is attached per instructions in SACSCOC's Substantive Change Policy.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please contact Dr. Shonda Gibson at 903-886-5743 or Shonda.gibson@tamuc.edu should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Ray M. Keck, Ph.D.
President

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Mary Kirk, Vice President, SACSCOC
Dr. John Humphreys, Interim Provost
Dr. Madeline Justice, Assistant Provost for Special Projects
Dr. Shonda Gibson, Executive Director of IER and SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison
Dr. Timothy Letzring, Dean, College of Education & Human Services
Dr. Jennifer Schroeder, Head, Department of Psychology, Counseling and Special Education

Office of the President

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Teach-out Plan
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Master of Arts in Special Education
College of Education and Human Services

Adapted from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission of Colleges.

1. Date of program closure.

May 31, 2017

2. An explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) will be informed of the impending closure.

There are currently no students enrolled in the Master of Arts (MA) in Special Education program and have not been for several semesters. Notification of the termination of the MA in Special Education degree program will take the form of an email from the Department Head, Jennifer Schroeder, to faculty and staff in the Department of Psychology, Counseling and Special Education.

3. An explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption.

There are currently no students enrolled in or pending graduation from the MA in Special Education program.

4. An indication as to whether the termination of the program will incur additional charges/expenses to the students and, if so, how the students will be notified.

None since there are no students currently enrolled in this program.

5. Signed copies of teach-out agreements with other institutions, if any.

Not applicable

6. How faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment.

Faculty are not currently teaching in this program since there are no students enrolled in the MA in Special Education degree program.

7. If closing an institution, arrangement for the storing of student records, disposition of final financial resources and other assets.

Not applicable

8. Please provide the following additional information:

a. How many students are currently enrolled in the program?

None

b. Projected graduation date for the last student(s) in the program?

Not applicable

NOTE: If students will not be moved to another program, you will need to extend the program closure date in order to continue to award degrees to current students under the existing program.