

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## *Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies*

The GCES - Early Childhood Education is a four-course experience designed to meet the needs of educators.

Through the certificate, you will learn to:

- *Deepen and extend knowledge and skills of specialized and evolving areas within the field of early childhood education based on the ability to critically analyze current scholarly/practice issues in the field in local, provincial, national and international contexts.*
- *Collaborate with other educational professionals to build sustainable learning communities that enhance personal and collective professional capacities and expertise in the area of early childhood education.*
- *Build capacity to support young learners from diverse backgrounds in formal and informal educational settings and foster effective relationships with their families and communities.*

**Rise to the challenges and opportunities of 21<sup>st</sup> century education.**

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies (GCES) is for teaching professionals and other educational specialists seeking advanced professional education. The program consists of a four-course cluster (12 credits) centered on early childhood education.

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies is a cohort-based, part-time, varied-delivery program that suits your schedule and timelines.

### THE PROGRAM

The GCES - Early Childhood Education disciplinary focus provides both foundational and practical knowledge in teaching and learning for young children in various contexts focusing on play-based pedagogy, creating inclusive and supportive environments for all learners, and developing early mathematics and literacy. Emphasis will be placed on generating new meanings by critically examining the content and engaging with theoretical approaches and practice-based perspectives.

### COURSES

#### Summer

EDU 541 Play and the Use of Playful Pedagogies in Early Childhood Education

#### Fall

EDU 540 Facilitating Young Children's Mathematical Understanding

#### Winter

EDU 543 Supporting Languages and Literacies in Early Childhood for All Students

#### Spring

EDU 542 Schools as Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for All Students

*The Graduate Certificate may be laddered into some M.Ed. Programs (see reverse).*

### APPLICATIONS OPEN:

**November 1 - April 30**  
(Start in summer term)

For more information:  
[uab.ca/gces](http://uab.ca/gces)  
[gcesinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto:gcesinfo@ualberta.ca)

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Four-year baccalaureate degree (or equivalent) from a recognized academic institution with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Two years of teaching experience
- English Language Proficiency  
(*more information on website*)



**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

# Laddering a Graduate Certificate into the Master of Education in Educational Studies (MES)



A [Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies \(GCES\)](#) or [Graduate Certificate in School Leadership \(GCSL\)](#) from the University of Alberta provides students with up to 12 credits in advanced standing in the MES program\*. Students admitted with one of the two approved graduate certificates will follow this **tentative** program plan (subject to change):

## Tentative Schedule – General Cohort\*\*



## Courses to Complete the M.Ed.

### **EDU 510 Fundamentals of Educational Research**

Students learn how to understand and apply educational research to educational problems. Specific focus on conceptualizing methods of educational research to specific and individual educational sites and issues.

### **EDU 514 Planning for Educational Change**

Students learn how educational research can enhance educational change toward school improvement and focus on the creation of a site-based research proposal, which utilizes appropriate research methods.

### **EDU 515 Conducting Educational Research**

Students complete a supervised research assignment specific to their educational context. They will develop and apply knowledge and skills related to data collection, data analysis techniques and research report presentation.

### **EDU 900 Program Synthesis**

A reflection and synthesis of learning from the Master of Education in Educational Studies in relation to the concepts of school/educational improvement that are the foundations of the program.

### **Plus two graduate-level electives**

*Note: Electives must be taken prior to taking EDU 900, unless permission has been received from the department for an altered course of study. Professional Learning offers a variety of electives; check the [website](#) for current offerings, or contact us to determine if the elective you want to take is approved for the program.*

### **Other Laddering Options**

The GCES and GCSL can also ladder into the [M.Ed. Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy](#). Contact [essgrad3@ualberta.ca](mailto:essgrad3@ualberta.ca) for more information.

Additionally, the GCSL can ladder into the [M.Ed. in Studies in Educational Leadership](#). Contact [essgrad2@ualberta.ca](mailto:essgrad2@ualberta.ca) for more information.

**Faculty of Education, Professional Learning**  
Website: [uab.ca/prolearn](http://uab.ca/prolearn) | Contact: [pluinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto:pluinfo@ualberta.ca)

*\*Completion of the GCES or GCSL does not guarantee acceptance into any Master's program. Course availability is dependent upon sufficient enrollment.*

*\*\*The schedule of courses is determined on an annual basis. Alternate schedules may be available for future years.*