

# CONTEMPORARY LITERACY EDUCATION: K-9

## *Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies*

The GCES - Contemporary Literacy Education: K-9 is designed to meet the needs of educators.

### Program Goals:

- *Provide practical links between theory and teaching in order to develop deep understandings about effective teaching of reading and writing in K - middle years education.*
- *Explore contemporary challenges in literacy teaching, including cultural and linguistic diversity in the classroom, meeting the needs of struggling readers and writers, and the role of digital and multimodal literacies in learning and teaching.*
- *Consider research and theories connected to literacy practices in homes and communities, including digital and multimodal communication, and ways that these can inform teaching.*
- *Provide a professional community of practice where teachers across different locations can connect with others to explore current issues and literature in the field.*

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

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies (GCES) is for teaching professionals and other educational specialists seeking advanced professional education. The program consists of four-courses (12 credits) centered on contemporary literacy education.

The GCES is a cohort-based, part-time, online program that suits your schedule and timelines.

## THE PROGRAM

The primary focus of this online certificate program in literacy education is to explore/investigate current issues and challenges in literacy education in the kindergarten to middle years grades. This program will engage educators in the study of contemporary theories, research, and cutting-edge literacy practices, with an emphasis on identifying ways to enhance their own teaching, whether it be in Alberta, other Canadian provinces, or in International contexts.

## COURSES

### Summer

EDU 595 Literacies: Old, New and Emerging

### Fall

EDU 595 Literacies: Theory and Practice

### Winter

EDU 595 Contemporary Approaches to Understanding and Addressing Reading and Writing Difficulties

### Spring

EDU 595 Contemporary Perspectives and Approaches to Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the Classroom

*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.