

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES *for* PRISON EDUCATORS AND LEADERS

The GCES for Prison Educators and Leaders is a four-course experience designed to meet the needs of educators in carceral environments, or for those interested in working in this field.

Through the certificate, you will learn how to:

- *Critically evaluate research and theories of rehabilitation, learning, and change, and their connection to classroom teaching, and program and course design*
- *Investigate and reflect on the challenges and opportunities of teaching in prison, including successful and emerging teaching strategies in carceral environments*
- *Collaborate with other professionals to create a network of prison educators to enable mutual support*
- *Build capacity to better support students in carceral environments to achieve their learning goals*
- *Describe, reflect, and comment on current scholarly and practice discussions in prison education grounded in research-based and collective experiences.*

## APPLICATIONS OPEN:

**November 1, 2024**  
(start in Fall 2025)

We are planning an  
information session  
in 2024.

Contact us to join the mailing list.  
[gcesadm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gcesadm@ualberta.ca)

## Rise to the challenges of teaching every student.

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) offered fully online with some synchronous components.

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

## THE PROGRAM

The primary focus of this certificate is on teaching and learning in the specific context of carceral environments, including prisons, remand centres, correctional institutions, young offender centres and more.

Through the program, students will explore the intricacies inherent in teaching in carceral environments, trace historical and current trends in prison education/programs, and develop strategies to maintain reflective practice. The program engages educators in interdisciplinary study of carceral environments, adult education and pedagogy, as well as course and program design.

## COURSES

### Fall 2025

EDU 595 Philosophies of Education in Criminal Justice

### Winter 2026

EDU 595 Teaching Adults and Youth in Carceral Environments

### Fall 2026

EDU 595 Course and Program Design and Evaluation in Carceral Environments

### Winter 2027

EDU 595 Understanding Carceral Environments and Reentry

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

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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



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## Course Descriptions

### **EDU 595 Philosophies of Education in Criminal Justice**

Approaches to education often do not meld seamlessly with approaches to criminal justice. In this course, students will trace the historical and contemporary approaches to learning, change, and rehabilitation in prison. They will explore a variety of philosophical approaches to both education and criminal justice, and critically analyze how different approaches might impact their teaching practice.

### **EDU 595 Teaching Adults and Youth in Carceral Environments**

Drawing on current education theories and practices, this course delves into particular teaching strategies that can be employed in correctional environments. Students will explore issues such as incorporating technology, adapting to multi-level classrooms, responding to trauma, creating educational environments, following institutional procedures and requirements, and working with justice professionals. A number of teaching modalities will be discussed, including face to face, self-directed study, student-led study groups, and the emergence of e-learning.

### **EDU 595 Course and Program Design and Evaluation in Carceral Environments**

This course explores the theoretical and practical considerations in program planning and course design in correctional contexts. Topics will include needs assessments, asset mapping, proposal writing, budgeting, instructional design, and program evaluation and reporting.

### **EDU 595 Understanding Carceral Environments and Re-entry**

Education and learning do not occur in a silo, fully separated from the other aspects of peoples' lives. One reality of prison is that "the outside" continues while someone is incarcerated. This course will incorporate research from a variety of fields – criminology, sociology, psychology, and more – to enable students to understand the larger correctional environment and life situations in which their teaching occurs.

## Laddering into a Master's Degree

The GCES for Prison Educators and Leaders can be laddered into two Master's programs:

- *Master of Education in Educational Studies (MES - details below)*
- *Master of Education in Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy.*

Both programs are 10-courses (30 credits); four core courses and two additional electives. Students with a GCES receive 12 credits in advanced standing for the four courses in the certificate towards the program of their choice.

### Courses in the MES

EDU 510

Fundamentals of Educational Research

EDU 514

Planning for Educational Change

EDU 515

Conducting Educational Research

EDU 900

Program Synthesis

Two graduate-level electives

Details on the MES Ladder are available at [uab.ca/mes](http://uab.ca/mes) or contact us at [mesinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto:mesinfo@ualberta.ca).



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