

SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP

Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies

The GCES – School Librarianship is a four-course experience designed to meet the needs of educators and allied professionals.

Through the certificate you will learn to:

- Provide practical links between theory and practice in order to develop deep understandings about effective school library programs.
- Demonstrate academic curiosity through critical reading and reflection of personal practice.
- Explore contemporary challenges in school librarianship including collection development, censorship, book challenges, collaborative learning and teaching, supporting students with diverse learning needs, information, digital and media literacy, and generative AI.
- Consider research, theories and practice connected to the integration of technology into schools and school libraries
- Provide a professional community of practice where those interested in school libraries/learning commons across different locations can connect with others to explore current issues and literature in the field.
- Provide an opportunity to experience graduate-level coursework with the future possibility to 'ladder in' coursework for a Master's degree.

Rise to the challenge of championing student well-being.

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

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

THE PROGRAM

The primary focus of the Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies - Teacher Librarianship (GCES) is to explore/investigate current issues and challenges for school library learning commons in K-12 schools. This program will engage teachers in the study of contemporary issues, research, and cutting edge practices for building quality school library programs, with an emphasis on identifying ways to enhance their own collaborative teaching, whether it be in Alberta, other Canadian provinces, or in International contexts.

This online program will provide opportunities for interchange and interaction among professional teachers to share ideas and critical reflections and engage in inquiry. It is designed to accommodate classroom teachers and curriculum leaders.

COURSES Full course descriptions on reverse.

Winter 2026

EDU 595 Contemporary Issues in School Librarianship

Summer 2026

EDU 595 Collaboration through Inquiry

Fall 2026

EDU 595 Technology in School Libraries

Winter 2027

EDU 595 School Library Collection Development

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

APPLICATIONS OPEN:

May 1 - October 31, 2025

(Start in **Winter 2026**)

For more information:
uab.ca/gceslibr
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*)



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Course Descriptions

EDU 595 Contemporary Issues in School Librarianship

This course will explore evolving trends, challenges, and opportunities in K-12 libraries through an examination of current research and practice. Students will critically examine one current issue in school librarianship.

EDU 595 Collaboration through Inquiry

This course will explore collaboration and inquiry-based learning through an examination of current research and practice. Students will create collaborative, inquiry-based learning activities and unit plans.

EDU 595 Technology in School Libraries

This course will explore evolving trends, challenges and opportunities of technology through an examination of current research and practice. Students will critically evaluate technologies that can be used to support teaching and learning in the school library.

EDU 595 School Library Collection Development

This course will explore school library collection development through an examination of current research and practice. Students will critically evaluate a school library collection and plan for new materials to enhance the resources available for the school community.

Laddering into a Master's Degree

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies can be laddered into the Master of Education in Educational Studies (MES).

The MES consists of 10 courses (30 credits); eight core courses and two additional electives. Students with a GCES receive 12 credits in advanced standing, reducing the number of courses in the master's to six. Courses are online with synchronous components.

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

Plus two graduate-level electives

Details on the
MES Certificate Pathway
are available at uab.ca/mes

Contact: mesinfo@ualberta.ca

The GCES can also ladder into the following:

- *Master of Education in Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy (online and in-person options available)*
- *Master of Education in Secondary Education (in-person only)*

Contact essgrad3@ualberta.ca for details.



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