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 21st 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

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)*
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) provides students with up to 12 credits in advanced standing in the MES program. Students who bring in one of the two approved Graduate Certificates will be admitted into the Fall 2023 certificate cohort* with the following tentative program plan (subject to change):

**Fall 2023**
**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.

**Winter 2024**
**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.

**Fall 2024**
**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.

**Winter 2025**
**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 Professional Learning Electives.**
Note: Electives can be taken at any time during the program.

*Note: The schedule for the 2024 cohort is yet to be determined.*

**Other Laddering Options**
The GCES and GCSL can also ladder into the M.Ed. Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy. Contact elemgrad@ualberta.ca for more information.

Additionally, the GCSL can ladder into the M.Ed. in Studies in Educational Leadership. Contact epscoord@ualberta.ca for more information.

**Faculty of Education, Professional Learning**
Website: uab.ca/prolearn  |  Contact: pluadmin@ualberta.ca

*Completion of the GCES or GCSL does not guarantee acceptance into any Master's program. Course availability is dependent upon sufficient enrollment. Alternate schedules may be available for future years.

**Students who are employed by school divisions that are part of the CAP program require additional approval which results in those students taking an elective in the Fall term and conducting research in the Winter term.*