The GCES - Learning Design in Postsecondary Education provides advanced study at the graduate level for individuals who work in, or aspire to work in, adult and higher education settings with the background knowledge and practical experience necessary to develop effective and engaging learning designs.

The following program goals are specific to Learning Design in Postsecondary Education, with an emphasis on the following:

• Conceptual issues related to teaching belief orientations, theories and the science of teaching and learning
• How design decisions can enable the structuring and scaffolding for effective teaching and student learning.
• Practical strategies and tools to dismantle barriers to equity and inclusion in learning design.
• Hands-on opportunities to work with a subject matter expert to apply learning design theories, models, and inclusive learning strategies.

Rise to the challenges and opportunities of 21st 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 four courses (12 credits) centered on learning design in PSE.

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

THE PROGRAM

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies - Learning Design in Postsecondary Education disciplinary focus will prepare participants to be pedagogical specialists informed by theories of learning, teaching and assessment. It is assumed graduates will work in a variety of postsecondary settings, as well as government and industry.

COURSES

Fall  
EDU 595 Philosophy, Theory & Science of Postsecondary Education

Winter  
EDU 595 Learning Design for Postsecondary Education

Spring  
EDU 595 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization in Learning Design

Summer  
EDU 595 Learning Design Practicum

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

APPLICATIONS OPEN:

November 1 - May 31  
(Start in fall 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

• 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.**