The GCES - Structured Literacy and Reading Science is a four-course experience designed to meet the needs of educators and clinicians seeking to upgrade their understanding of reading and writing development and instruction.

Through the certificate, you will learn to:

- Develop a robust knowledge base around the developmental trajectories of reading and writing.
- Design and implement explicit and systematic instruction to support the literacy learning needs of diverse students.
- Know how to be a wise consumer of literacy research and recognize effective literacy practices and programs.
- Choose, evaluate, and implement research-based reading and writing assessments for a variety of purposes in schools.
- Identify and respond to factors that underlie specific reading difficulties

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 the scientific evidence for and understanding of reading and writing development and instruction.

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

THE PROGRAM

Reading and writing are the cornerstones of students’ academic success. The GCES – Structured Literacy and Reading Science disciplinary focus will advance educators’ self-efficacy in the knowledge and skills relating to reading development, reading difficulties, and structured literacy instruction. The courses are designed to blend theory with practice and will build capacity in both classroom-wide teaching of reading and writing and in supporting students with specific literacy difficulties.

COURSES

Summer 2024
EDU 595 Oral Language: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy

Fall 2024
EDU 595 Word Reading: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy

Fall 2024/Winter 2025
EDU 595 Reading Comprehension: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy

Winter 2025
EDU 595 Writing: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy

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 with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Two years of teaching or clinical experience
- English Language Proficiency (more information on website)
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 are admitted with one of the two approved graduate certificates will follow this tentative program plan (subject to change):

### 2024 – 2025 Tentative Schedule – General Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2024</th>
<th>Fall 2024</th>
<th>Winter 2025</th>
<th>Spring 2025</th>
<th>Summer 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDU 510/514</td>
<td>EDU 515**</td>
<td>Elective I</td>
<td>Elective II</td>
<td>EDU 900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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 Professional Learning Electives.*

Note: These must be taken prior to taking EDU 900, unless permission has been received from the department for an altered course of study. Not all electives are offered each semester; check the [website](#) for current offerings.

### Other Laddering Options

The GCES and GCSL can also ladder into the M.Ed. Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy. Contact essgrad3@ualberta.ca for more information.

Additionally, the GCSL can ladder into the M.Ed. in Studies in Educational Leadership. Contact essgrad2@ualberta.ca for more information.

### Faculty of Education, Professional Learning

Website: [uab.ca/prolearn](#) | Contact: 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. 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.*