The Graduate Certificate in School Leadership (GCSL) with a Rural Education focus is a four-course experience designed to enhance your skills as a school leader.

You will develop your leadership capacity in areas such as:

- leading a learning community in times of change
- providing instructional leadership for increased student engagement
- managing school operations and resources
- moving policy to practice
- understanding the social context of schooling.

The Graduate Certificate fulfills the academic requirements for principal certification in Alberta.

Rise to the challenges and opportunities of 21st century school leadership.

This program enables rural school leaders to hone leadership practices centered on Alberta's Leadership Quality Standard (LQS) in order to support and build up rural education.

You will explore dimensions of leadership within rural education and engage in authentic tasks and experiences. This program will include professional learning activities with the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC).

The program is part-time, cohort-based and facilitates studying without taking leave from your career. Courses are presented fully online with some synchronous components.

THE PROGRAM

The GCSL - Rural Education cohort consists of four courses, starting in the Fall:

- EDU 520 Foundations of School Leadership
- EDU 521 School Leadership: Theory into Practice

Completion of these two courses fulfills the academic requirements for principal certification in Alberta. Students do not have to wait until they have completed the program to apply for certification.

Two other courses will be created through a collaboration between ERLC and the Faculty of Education.

The Graduate Certificate can be laddered into some M.Ed. programs.

Full course descriptions here.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 30 for Fall 2022 start

For more information:

uab.ca/gcs

gcsinfo@ualberta.ca
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 certificate cohort with the following program plan:

**Summer I**

**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.

**Fall**

**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**

**Elective I**
Professional Learning Electives

**Spring**

**Elective II**

**Summer**

**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.

**Other Laddering Options**
The GCES and GCSL can 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.

*This pathway will begin in Summer 2023. Completion of the GCES or GCSL does not guarantee acceptance into any Master's program.

**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.*