The Graduate Certificate in School Leadership (GCSL) 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
- modelling continuous professional learning for teachers
- supporting the application of foundational knowledge about Indigenous Peoples
- understanding the social context of schooling.

Rise to the challenges of 21st century school leadership.

You will be engaged in authentic tasks and experiences directly linked to school leadership, including a job-embedded learning component in which you visit, observe, and collaborate with a school leader or leadership team of your choice.

The Graduate Certificate meets the academic requirements for principal and superintendent certification in Alberta.

THE PROGRAM

The Graduate Certificate in School Leadership (GCSL) is a flexible, part-time, varied-delivery program that suits your schedule and timelines.

The GCSL consists of four courses:

- two required courses are taken in sequence (EDU 520 and EDU 521)
- two approved elective courses, taken at your discretion.

Courses can be taken at your convenience (within a one to four-year time frame).

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

REQUIRED COURSES

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

Completion of these 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.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Four-year baccalaureate degree (or equivalent) from a recognized academic institution and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Two years of teaching experience
- English Language Proficiency

APPROVED ELECTIVES

- EDU 523 System Leadership: Theory and Practice (Prerequisite EDU 521)
  
Completion of this course fulfills the academic requirements for superintendent certification in Alberta.

- EDU 530 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Issues for School Leaders

- EDU 596 Leading School Operations

Additional electives are available and in development.

For more information:

uab.ca/gcsl
gcslinfo@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.