

# CONTEMPORARY LITERACY EDUCATION: K-9

## *Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies*

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Full course descriptions on reverse.

### 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 - March 31**

(Start in summer term)

For more information:  
[uab.ca/gcescl](http://uab.ca/gcescl)  
[gcesinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto: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*)



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### Course Descriptions

#### **EDU 595 Literacies: Old, New and Emerging**

This course offers an introduction to new and emerging literacy practices and conceptions as they relate to elementary teaching and learning. The course will focus on how digital and multimodal texts and practices can be used alongside existing reading and writing instruction and pedagogy. Students will consider shifts in communication forms and practices, including the influence of the pandemic era and will have an opportunity to develop resources they can use in their own teaching context.

#### **EDU 595 Literacies: Theory and Practice**

This course provides an orientation to current theoretical perspectives and approaches to literacy education. Participants will critically analyze the work of key theorists, researchers, and practitioners in addressing how children and youth develop language and literacy, with a focus on making connections to their own classroom practice.

#### **EDU 595 Contemporary Approaches to Understanding and Addressing Reading and Writing Difficulties**

This course focuses on ways to identify the strengths and needs of learners with reading or writing difficulties, and the selection and adaptation of teaching activities and resources to meet their needs. Contemporary issues and controversies in remedial reading and writing education will be considered, including the different ways in which reading and writing difficulties are explained and addressed in contemporary research and popular remedial programs and various teaching practices.

#### **EDU 595 Contemporary Perspectives and Approaches to Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the Classroom**

This course focuses on research and theories addressing linguistic, cultural and social aspects for multilingual and newcomer students in the contemporary English Language Arts classroom. It addresses approaches to instruction and assessment, and makes connections to multimodal and digital literacy practices for culturally and linguistically diverse students.

### Laddering into a Master's Degree

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies can be laddered into the Master of Education in Educational Studies (MES).

The MES consists of 10 courses (30 credits); eight core courses and two additional electives. Students with a GCES receive 12 credits in advanced standing, reducing the number of courses in the master's to six. Courses are online with synchronous components.

#### **Courses in the MES:**

EDU 510  
Fundamentals of Educational Research

EDU 514  
Planning for Educational Change

EDU 515  
Conducting Educational Research

EDU 900  
Program Synthesis

Plus two graduate-level electives

Details on the  
MES Certificate Pathway  
are available at [uab.ca/mes](http://uab.ca/mes)

Contact: [mesinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto:mesinfo@ualberta.ca)

### The GCES can also ladder into the following:

- *Master of Education in Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy (online and in-person options available)*
- *Master of Education in Secondary Education (in-person only)*

Contact [essgrad3@ualberta.ca](mailto:essgrad3@ualberta.ca) for details.



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