

# STRUCTURED LITERACY AND READING SCIENCE

## *Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies*

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

Full course descriptions on reverse.

### Summer

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

### Fall

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

### Fall / Winter

**EDU 595 Reading Comprehension:** Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy

### Winter

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

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

## APPLICATIONS OPEN:

**November 1 - February 28**

(start in summer term)

For more information:  
[uab.ca/GCESSLRS](http://uab.ca/GCESSLRS)  
[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 or clinical experience
- English Language Proficiency  
(*more information on website*)



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### Course Descriptions

#### **EDU 595 Oral Language: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy**

This course contextualizes oral language development within the process of literacy acquisition. Topics include typical developmental trajectory of oral language, oral language-based learning disorders, oral language-written language connections, and the role of oral language in current psychological models of literacy acquisition. Empirically validated approaches for assessment and instruction to strengthen oral language skills for typical and struggling readers including identification and support for students with language-based learning disorders related to oral language will be a focus.

#### **EDU 595 Word Reading: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy**

This course focuses on the role of word reading in a comprehensive understanding of literacy acquisition. Topics include developmental phases of word reading skill; linguistic processes contributing to word reading and spelling; current psychological models of the role of word reading in reading comprehension; learning disorders related to word reading and how students with these disorders can be identified and supported; and empirically validated approaches for assessment and instruction to strengthen word reading skills for typical and struggling readers.

#### **EDU 595 Reading Comprehension: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy**

This course focuses on the role of reading comprehension in literacy acquisition. Topics include the typical trajectory for reading comprehension skill development; text reading fluency; the role of knowledge in reading comprehension; effective reading comprehension strategies; and empirically validated approaches for assessment and instruction of reading comprehension for typical and struggling readers.

#### **EDU 595 Writing: Evidence-informed instruction and assessment for literacy**

This course focuses on the role of writing in a comprehensive understanding of literacy acquisition. Topics include current psychological models of the writing process and writing development; reading-writing connections; assistive technology; text structure; and empirically validated approaches for assessment and instruction of writing for typical and struggling writers.

### Laddering into a Master's Degree

The GCES Structured Literacy and Reading Science (GCES-SLRS) can be laddered into the Master of Education in Educational Studies - Structured Literacy and Reading Science (MES-SLRS).

The MES is a 10-course Master's program. However, students with a GCES-SLRS receive 12 credits in advanced standing in the MES-SLRS, reducing the number of courses in the master's to six. Courses are online with synchronous components.

#### **Courses in the MES-SLRS:**

EDU 510  
Fundamentals of Educational Research

EDU 514  
Planning for Educational Change

EDU 515  
Conducting Educational Research

EDU 520  
Theoretical and Professional Foundations of School Leadership

EDU 521  
School Leadership: Theory and Practice

EDU 900  
Program Synthesis

Details on the  
MES SLRS Ladder Program  
are available at [uab.ca/MESSLRS](http://uab.ca/MESSLRS)

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

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

- *Traditional Master of Education in Educational Studies (online only)*  
Contact [mesinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto:mesinfo@ualberta.ca) for information.
- *Master of Education in Elementary Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy, or Secondary Education (online and in-person options available)*  
Contact [wdunn@ualberta.ca](mailto:wdunn@ualberta.ca) for information.



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