

# TEACHING STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX COMMUNICATION NEEDS

## *Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies*

The GCES - Teaching Students with Complex Communication Needs is a four-course experience designed to meet the needs of educators.

Through the certificate, you will learn to:

- *Develop and understand the components of quality educational programming for students with CCN*
- *Create and effectively implement augmentative and alternative communication in the classroom*
- *Establish and nurture a collaborative teaming environment to support communication, language development and learning of students with CCN*
- *Develop and implement effective and comprehensive literacy and numeracy instruction for students with CCN.*

**APPLICATIONS OPEN:**

**November 1 - April 30**  
(start in Fall term)

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

### **Rise to the challenges of teaching every student.**

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 teaching students with complex communication needs.

The GCES is a cohort-based, part-time program that suits your schedule and timelines. Courses are presented online with some synchronous components.

## **THE PROGRAM**

The Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies - Teaching Students with Complex Communication Needs (GCES - TSCCN) provides you with opportunities to enhance your skills as an educator responsible for providing quality instruction to students with significant disabilities including those who have complex communications needs (CCN). See Alberta's [Essential Components for Teaching Students with Complex Communication](#) needs document for a description of students with complex communication needs.

This certificate is designed for teachers, learning coaches, and related health professionals who want to enhance their knowledge and practice working with students with CCN who require Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) to meet the demands of their everyday communication. You will be engaged in authentic tasks and experiences directly linked to working with students with CCN. Full course descriptions are available on our website.

## **COURSES**

### **Fall I**

*EDU 595 Instructional Design and Methods*

### **Winter I**

*EDU 595 Augmentative and Alternative Communication*

### **Fall II**

*EDU 595 Literacy*

### **Winter II**

*EDU 595 Numeracy*

*The Graduate Certificate may be laddered into some M.Ed. Programs. See reverse for details.*

## **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



**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

# Laddering a Graduate Certificate into the Master of Education in Educational Studies (MES)



A [Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies \(GCES\)](#) or [Graduate Certificate in School Leadership \(GCSL\)](#) from the University of Alberta provides students with up to 12 credits in advanced standing in the MES program\*. Students admitted with one of the two approved graduate certificates will follow this **tentative** program plan (subject to change):

## Tentative Schedule – General Cohort\*\*



## 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 graduate-level electives**

*Note: Electives must be taken prior to taking EDU 900, unless permission has been received from the department for an altered course of study. Professional Learning offers a variety of electives; check the [website](#) for current offerings, or contact us to determine if the elective you want to take is approved for the program.*

### **Other Laddering Options**

The GCES and GCSL can also ladder into the [M.Ed. Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy](#). Contact [essgrad3@ualberta.ca](mailto:essgrad3@ualberta.ca) for more information.

Additionally, the GCSL can ladder into the [M.Ed. in Studies in Educational Leadership](#). Contact [essgrad2@ualberta.ca](mailto:essgrad2@ualberta.ca) for more information.

**Faculty of Education, Professional Learning**  
Website: [uab.ca/prolearn](http://uab.ca/prolearn) | Contact: [pluinfo@ualberta.ca](mailto: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.

\*\*The schedule of courses is determined on an annual basis. Alternate schedules may be available for future years.