

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

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.

In this program, you will be engaged in authentic tasks and experiences directly linked to school leadership. This includes 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).

APPLICATION PERIOD

You can begin studies in any semester*:

Fall term:

Apply between Nov. 1 and June 30

Winter term:

Apply between May 1 and Oct. 31

Spring term:

Apply between Nov. 1 and Feb. 28

Summer term:

Apply between Nov. 1 and Apr. 30

**pending sufficient enrollment*

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 (*more information on website*)

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 Special Topics in Educational Leadership* (variable topics)

Approved electives for each term are listed on our website.

For more information:
uab.ca/gcsl
gcslinfo@ualberta.ca



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**



Laddering the Graduate Certificate in School Leadership into the Master of Education in Educational Studies (MES)

A [Graduate Certificate in School Leadership](#) (GCSL) from the University of Alberta provides students with up to 12 credits in advanced standing in the [Master of Education in Educational Studies](#) (MES) program*. Students 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. Once you are admitted to a graduate program, you can no longer take courses through Open Studies until after you graduate.

Other Laddering Options

The GCSL can also ladder into:

- the [M.Ed. Elementary Education - Curriculum and Pedagogy](#) or the [M.Ed. in Secondary Education](#) – contact essgrad3@ualberta.ca
- the [M.Ed. in Studies in Educational Leadership](#) – contact essgrad2@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Education, Professional Learning

Website: uab.ca/mes | **Contact:** mesinfo@ualberta.ca

**Completion of the GCSL does not guarantee acceptance into any master's program.*

***The schedule of courses is determined on an annual basis. Alternate schedules may be available in future years. Course availability is dependent upon sufficient enrollment.*