

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 ladderred 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 Mar. 31

**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.

Course descriptions on reverse.

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



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Course Descriptions

Note: approved electives for this program include EDU 523, EDU 530 and EDU 596 (various titles) only.

EDU 520 Theoretical and Professional Foundations of School Leadership

Using scholarly and professional research, this course focuses on foundational dimensions of school leadership.

EDU 521 School Leadership: Theory and Practice

This research-based course enables school leaders to hone leadership practices grounded in research. Students will explore and further develop understanding of school leadership in light of research literature and practice-based understandings. This course includes a job embedded learning component. Prerequisite: EDU 520.

EDU 523 System Leadership: Theory and Practice

This research-based course enables the development of competencies that executives must demonstrate in their professional practice when leading large educational systems. The course extends on concepts and principles pertinent to all levels of educational system leadership. Prerequisite: EDU 521 or Alberta Leadership Certification.

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

The course will explore the history of policy and legislation in relation to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada to inform school leaders. It will further inform knowledge of the current state of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education and explore some of the existing theory in First Nation policy.

EDU 596 Special Topics in Educational Leadership

Content varies from term to term. Previous topics included:

- Anticipating AI in the Futures of Teaching
- Career-Long Professional Education
- Gender and Educational Leadership
- Leading School Operations
- Métis Foundational Knowledge for Teachers and School Leaders
- School Leadership through Uncertain Times

Current list of electives* on our [website](#).

*Only EDU 523, EDU 530 and EDU 596 are approved for the GCSL.

Laddering into a Master's Degree

The Graduate Certificate in School Leadership 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 Ladder Program
are available at uab.ca/MESLDR**

Contact: mesinfo@ualberta.ca

The GCSL can also ladder into the following:

- *Master of Education in Elementary Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy, or Secondary Education (online and in-person options available)*
Contact wdunn@ualberta.ca for details.
- *Master of Education in Studies in Educational Leadership (in-person only)*
Contact ess2@ualberta.ca for details.



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