

# Graduate Diploma in Education (GDE)

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

### Why a GRADUATE DIPLOMA in EDUCATION?

Our fully online, part-time Graduate Diploma in Education (GDE) program is designed for educators and other professionals who want to take their career to the next level by exploring educational theory in relation to their practice.

The GDE program provides students with the unique opportunity to focus their graduate learning in a chosen concentration of study and apply that learning to solve problems of practice and effect change in their professional context.

Consisting of only 5 online courses, the GDE program is an excellent way to begin your online graduate studies experience and earn a graduate diploma. Should you decide to continue on after you finish the Graduate Diploma, take an additional 5 courses to earn a Professional Master of Education degree as well.

### Program STRUCTURE

The GDE program offers a flexible and personalized approach to post-graduate studies in education. All GDE courses run asynchronously online, which means professionals can participate from anywhere in the world without disrupting their busy schedules. Students enrolled in the GDE program must complete a total of 5 graduate courses, 3 required and 2 elective.

- Courses do not need to be taken in a specific order.
- Courses are offered four terms throughout the year: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.
- Courses are 10 weeks in Fall and Winter and 7 weeks in Spring and Summer.
- Courses are approximately 36 hours online and 70-100 hours independently.



### Required COURSES (3)

GDE students choose one of the following concentrations and take all 3 courses in their chosen concentration:

- Assessment & Evaluation
- Classroom Specialist
- Educational Administration
- Global Education
- Indigenous Education
- Literacy Education

### ELECTIVE Courses (2)

GDE students choose 2 elective courses outside their chosen concentration. The breadth of elective options allows students to customize a learning portfolio that supports their professional context. Electives include:

- **GDE 800** Self-Regulated Inquiry and Learning
- **GDE 801** Cultivating Creativity
- **GDE 803** Organizational Leadership
- **GDE 810** Integrated Planning, Instruction, and Assessment
- **GDE 811** Innovation in Teacher and Learning
- **GDE 814** Problem Based Learning
- **GDE 815** Digital Literacy
- Students may also choose courses from outside their designated concentration as electives.

“My experience so far as a student in the Graduate Diploma has been fantastic. The idea of doing a distance program seemed daunting at first, but the Queen’s faculty have made it easy and enjoyable. They have worked hard to create an inviting and constructive online learning environment, offering valuable discussions and feedback. The content of the courses provides room to be challenged and grow as an educator. The GDE is a wonderful program and is a great lead-in for the Professional Master of Education.”

- Laura Mann (GDE Student)

### Ladder Your Credentials

Applicants to the Graduate Diploma in Education (GDE) and the Professional Master of Education (PME) programs who have completed a post-graduate certificate through Queen’s Continuing Education (CTE) or Professional Studies (PS) as part of the ladder option qualify for advanced standing. [Find out more.](#)

# Graduate Studies FAQs

## Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.



Graduate Studies, Faculty of Education  
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GRADUATE STUDIES AND  
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

# Application FAQs

## What do I need to know to APPLY?

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A baccalaureate degree from a recognized university
- Statement of Interest
- Graduation with a B- graduating average or higher (70% graduating average or a ranking in the top third of the graduating class where number grades are not available)
- Under exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to highly motivated individuals with relevant field experience who do not meet the B- requirement
- Applicants whose native languages do not include English must obtain a minimum English language requirement of 580 or higher on the paper-based TOEFL exam; 237 Computer-based; 88 on the TOEFL iBT test or IELTS Band 7 or higher.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2 academic references (or 2 professional references if last degree was completed more than 5 years prior)
- As part of the online application and application fee, applicants will be required to submit official transcripts from all universities attended (except Queen's) and 2 academic references.

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Please refer to <https://educ.queensu.ca/GDE> for key dates and deadlines.

Before you start your application, please review the [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs application process](#).

## APPLICATION Process

As part of the online application and application fee, applicants will be required to submit official transcripts from all universities attended (except Queen's) and 2 references (either academic or professional).

The online application form includes two spaces for reference contact information.

Referees are notified that you want them to provide a reference for you by email after you have submitted your online application, so please submit your application at least two weeks before the application deadline and be sure to include the correct email addresses of your referees on your online application. Applications will not be deemed complete and will not be reviewed by the admissions committee until all listed references are received.

In addition to the online application and application fee, applicants are required to submit official transcripts (envelopes from the institution cannot be opened) from all universities attended except for Queen's.

If you have questions, please contact the [Graduate Studies Office](#).

*"As a late-career learner, years past undergraduate studies, I wondered if the online graduate program could be accessible and practical for me, especially with little digital learning experience. My learning curve was significant, but I've had fantastic support from my instructors, younger colleagues, and library personnel as well as university staff. The GDE program appealed to my professional interests and goals to refresh and update my knowledge. It has worked very well, and I'm now three courses into my GDE. I appreciate the flexibility of the timeline, structure, and potential to work at my own pace and continue studies into a PME if I wish to. This has been a worthwhile pursuit, even late in my career!"*

- Catherine Gale (GDE Student)