Academic Upgrading

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Overview

If you don't meet the requirements for our certificate, diploma, applied degree, and bachelor's degree programs, our Academic Upgrading program can help get you there.

Complete a variety of our high school equivalency courses depending on your academic goals and journey. We want you to feel comfortable here at SAIT and develop successful strategies for ongoing learning. Many adult learners use the Academic Upgrading program to upgrade high school courses.

All courses are Alberta high school equivalency courses (not Alberta Education credit courses) and are accepted by other Alberta post-secondary educational institutions for admission.

Check the current Alberta Transfer Guide published by The Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer for a listing of all formalized transfer agreements among Alberta post-secondary institutions.

Please note that you cannot use the Academic Upgrading program to earn your high school diploma.

Why upgrade at SAIT

The benefits of taking Academic Upgrading courses at SAIT include:

- flexible class times where you can choose when and where to take your classes - during the day, evening, or online.
- a supportive and inclusive learning environment, with access to free student services such as self-directed learning resources and workshops, writing support, financial advising, and counselling services.

We recommend you have access to a personal computer for your classes. Attendance and punctuality are directly related to academic success. Attending all your classes gives you a better chance of succeeding on assignments and tests.

Expand your learning with Open Studies

Are you interested in taking both Open Studies and Academic Upgrading courses? You can enroll in both simultaneously by applying to Open Studies first. Once you've been accepted, contact us at upgrading@sait.ca for assistance with registering for Academic Upgrading courses.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

To succeed in the Academic Upgrading program, you need some key qualities and abilities, including:

- motivation and a strong desire to improve your academic skills and achieve your educational goals
- time management skills to balance coursework and other responsibilities
- self-discipline so you can stay focused while studying and completing assignments
- computer literacy
- being able to understand written materials in English
- study skills, including knowing how to take notes and prepare for exams
- effective communication skills, expressing your thoughts clearly verbally or in writing.

Admission requirements

Once you have applied to the program, your transcripts will be reviewed by the Academic Upgrading team to determine the appropriate level of upgrading courses.

You may be required to complete placement tests. You must complete testing in all relevant subject areas if your transcripts are unavailable.

All applicants, including those educated in Canada, must demonstrate English language proficiency.

Applicants educated outside of Canada

All applicants who were educated outside of Canada must demonstrate English language proficiency and provide proof they meet the program admission requirements with an international document assessment. Find accepted educational documents and assessment options.

SAIT may also accept courses completed at certain international post-secondary institutions.

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

The estimated cost of tuition and fees is based on the number of courses taken in a semester.

Domestic Students

Number of courses per semester	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per semester
1	$582	$224.52	$806.52
2	$1,164	$276.54	$1,440.54
3	$1,746	$877	$2,623

The estimated cost of tuition and fees for domestic students is based on the number of courses taken in a semester.

International Students

Number of courses per semester	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per semester
1	$1,980	$425.52	$2,405.52
2	$3,960	$477.54	$4,437.54
3	$5,940	$877	$6,817

The estimated cost of tuition and fees for international students is based on the number of courses taken in a semester.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $150 to $200 per course.

MATH 181 and MATH 182 use Open Educational Resources (OERs), so no purchase is required. Some instructors may recommend additional supportive books in the form of math workbooks.

Consider waiting to purchase COMM 181 or COMM 182 textbooks until the first class so instructors can inform you of their preferences.

This is a bring-your-own-device program with standard computer hardware and software requirements. See the specific requirements on our computers and laptops page.