Accounting

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Overview

This program will equip you with the essential knowledge and skills to succeed in various accounting, finance and business management roles.

Whether your interest lies in management positions or starting a career in bookkeeping or accounting, this program will help you. It also allows you to pursue advanced credentials.

Class sizes are small, with a maximum of 40 students. You can expect a workload of nine to 12 hours per week per course. You'll have up to five years to complete this certificate, allowing flexibility in your learning journey.

Our instructors with professional accounting experience will guide you to ensure you gain all the necessary practical knowledge.

In this program, you will:

- gain a solid understanding of accounting fundamentals, including income statements, balance sheets, accounts receivable, accounts payable, fixed assets, and depreciation
- get hands-on experience reconciling accounts and recording journal entries related to full-cycle accounting
- learn to leverage information and communication technology essential in today's digital age to streamline processes, improve accuracy, and enhance productivity in accounting and financial management roles
- develop soft skills, business acumen and an understanding of how the accounting field contributes to all areas of business
- learn how to model the ethical expectations of the accounting profession, which are essential for transparency and trust.

The program culminates in a capstone course where you'll apply your skills in a work-integrated learning project. This experience will enhance your critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and organizational capabilities.

As a graduate of this financial accounting program, you'll be ready to take on accounting-related business administration jobs.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those working in the accounting field tend to be methodical, innovative, and directive.

You need:

- high ethical standards
- communication skills
- critical-thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills
- time-management skills
- the ability to work independently or as part of a team.

You should enjoy following rules, working within highly structured processes, and creative problem-solving. You should also be comfortable directing others.

SAIT program pathways

The accounting certificate provides you with the necessary foundation to advance your education.

Graduates of this program can receive credit for up to nine courses required for SAIT's Business Administration diploma or Bachelor of Business Administration degree (varies by major). Additional admission requirements apply.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

Your final capstone course will have you apply your skills in a work-integrated learning project.

You'll work collaboratively with other students to develop a solution to a challenge faced by a business or community organization.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

Some courses in this program are recognized as equivalent to Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) preparatory courses required for admission to the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP).

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, you'll receive a SAIT Accounting certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and completion of one of the following courses or equivalents:

- at least 50% in Math 30-1 or Math 30-2, or
- at least 50% in SAIT BMAT 230 Business Mathematics.

SAIT accepts high school course equivalents for admission for applicants educated outside Alberta.

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 estimated costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees is based on completing 15 credits a semester for two semesters. Following a modified schedule will impact the fees you pay per semester and may alter final costs.

Domestic Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	2	$6,150	$1,764.50	$7,914.50
			Total cost:	**$7,914.50**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees for domestic students is based on the recommended course load per year.

International Students

The program total is based on the estimated amount you will pay if you enter this program during the 2026/27 academic year. The program total amount listed on your letter of admission may appear higher. This amount is your maximum tuition guarantee for the program. SAIT will not exceed this maximum, regardless of changes in tuition and fees between academic years.

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	2	$18,780	$1,764.50	$20,544.50

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
			Total cost:	**$20,544.50**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees for international students is based on the recommended course load per year.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $1,000 - $1,500 per full-time year.

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

Find your booklist on the SAIT Bookstore's website. The booklist will be available closer to the program start date. Can't find your program or course? The bookstore didn't receive a textbook list. Contact your program advisor directly to determine if they're still refining course details or if you're in luck; no textbook purchase is required this term.