Advanced Care Paramedic

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

The Advanced Care Paramedic program is designed for those who want to elevate their career in emergency medical services.

This extensive program equips you with in-depth knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and a range of medical interventions.

The first year focuses on foundational knowledge and building a strong theoretical base in human anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology. You will:

- learn treatment protocols for various medical and traumatic emergencies
- gain proficiency in adult advanced life support and neonatal resuscitation protocols
- develop advanced patient assessment skills
- apply theoretical knowledge in controlled environments through simulation laboratory classes, utilizing the Centre for Advanced Patient Care Simulation, and our state-of-the-art Ambulance Simulation labs, for realistic patient care scenarios.

The second year focuses on practical experience, during which you take part in practicum placements to build real-world paramedicine experience, as well as prepare for registration with the Alberta College of Paramedics.

The key features of year two include:

- specialized training in critical emergency interventions
- a combination of theoretical instruction and hands-on practice.

Graduates of this program are ready to perform at the forefront of emergency medical services. With a curriculum that meets the highest accreditation standards and a strong focus on practical skills, you will be thoroughly prepared for the demands of being an Advanced Care Paramedic.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Paramedics tend to be innovative, methodical and objective.

You need:

- a strong desire to help those in need
- adaptability
- excellent communication skills
- attention to details
- sound decision-making and critical-thinking skills
- fine motor skills to provide advanced pre-hospital emergency care
- emotional self-regulation and the ability to remain calm, firm, reassuring and efficient in moments of crisis
- the ability to work alone and on a team
- a willingness to work extended hours and shifts, including nights and weekends
- to be comfortable with the sight of human blood and tissue
- to meet the job's physical demands, including spending most working hours on your feet, repetitively bending, and assisting with transporting, lifting and positioning patients or equipment. Some of these requirements include:
    - lift a stretcher with a 95.5 kg (210 lbs) patient with a partner from a lower level to the load position and back down
    - lift and carry a long spine board with a 95.5 kg (210 lbs) patient and ascend and descend ten stairs with a partner
    - push a stair chair 10 m with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascend and descend 20 stairs with a partner
    - bilateral side carry of 9 kg (20 lbs) of weight in each hand
    - front carry 18 kg (40 lbs)
    - perform CPR for two minutes.

All emergency medical personnel are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for extended periods. This includes

exposure to latex and other disinfectant materials.

You are strongly encouraged to refer to the ALIS website for career, learning, and employment information for emergency medical personnel, the Paramedic Association of Canada occupational competency profile and Alberta Health Service's F.A.R.E. Paramedic requirements to ensure you can successfully meet the occupational requirements for the program and profession.

SAIT program pathways

Graduates of SAIT's Primary Care Paramedic program meet the admission requirements for this program.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

You'll participate in required practicums under the guidance of experienced, on-site practitioners (preceptors) and SAIT instructors, who will mentor and oversee you in clinical settings.

You will be assigned practicum placements with consideration given to your preference of location. However, due to limited availability in Calgary, you might need to travel or relocate outside of the city or province.

The healthcare field has a strong focus on health, wellness, and fitness to practice due to the demanding nature of the work and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. As such, special considerations will not be granted based on individual circumstances or preferences, except those stated as protected grounds when an accommodation has been approved.

If you cannot obtain a tight facial seal while wearing a respiratory mask due to the presence of facial hair and refuse to shave for religious reasons, you will be considered unfit to work as a paramedic by Alberta Health Services (AHS) standards and will not be allowed to participate in practicum or successfully complete the program. Respiratory mask-fit testing is a requirement to participate in your practicum.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our clinical partners, you will be required to provide specific documentation before you can participate in your practicum. Find out what requirements you need for this program.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

This program is accredited by Accreditation Canada at the Advanced Care Paramedic level and meets the core competency requirements of the Alberta College of Paramedics.

Once you graduate, you're eligible to write the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators registry exam, and required to register with the Alberta College of Paramedics to work in Alberta.

You'll also receive the following certifications as a graduate:

- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- International Trauma Life Support (ITLS)
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, you'll be awarded a SAIT Advanced Care Paramedic diploma.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

All applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and completion of the following courses or equivalents:

- Primary Care Paramedic certificate, or
- Emergency Medical Technician certificate.

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 total cost of tuition and fees is based on the suggested schedule of study. 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	3	$9,675	$2,265.50*	$11,940.50
2	2	$5,805	$1,764.50	$7,569.50
			Total cost:	**$19,510**

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

*You will be ineligible for the UPass during the third semester of your first 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	3	$37,012.50	$2,265.50*	$39,278
2	2	$22,207.50	$1,764.50	$23,972
			Total cost:	**$63,250**

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

*You will be ineligible for the UPass during the third semester of your first year.

Books and Supplies

Books, uniforms and supplies are approximately $5,500 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. An Apple tablet is recommended, as it is required to support certain applications used in the program, and will support all portable computing device requirements of the program.

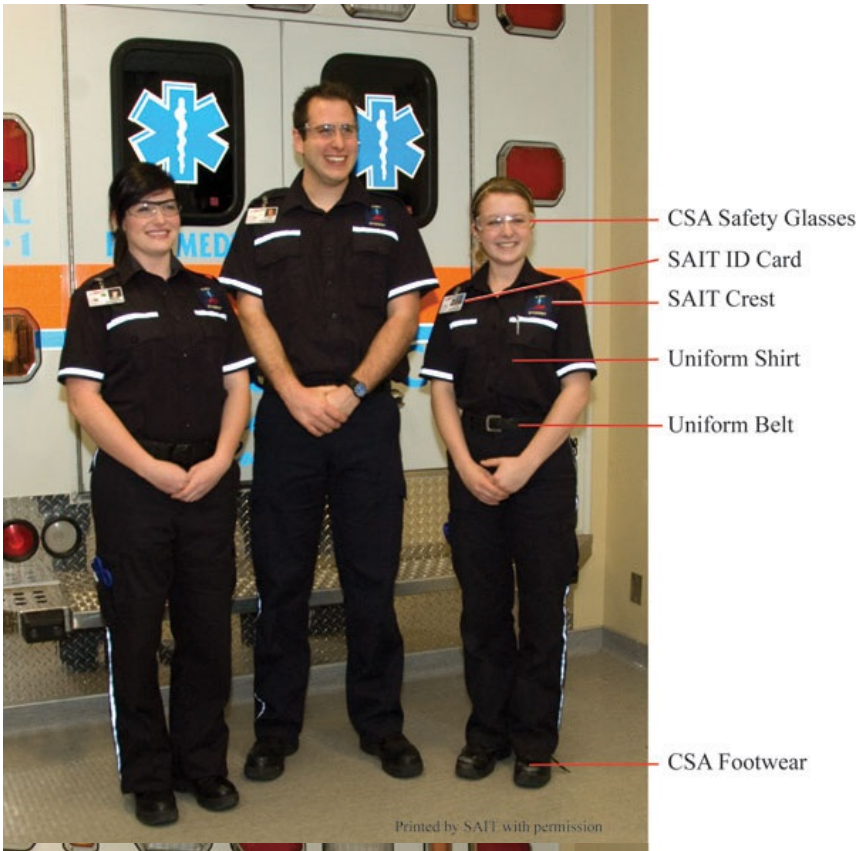
Find your booklist on the SAIT Bookstore's website. Booklists are by semester and made available approximately two weeks before classes begin.

Required personal protective equipment (PPE) and uniform

Uniforms and PPE are to be purchased before orientation day.

Print and take the uniform order form to Trademark Workwear Inc. to order your SAIT uniforms. Refer to the form for details and ensure you order your uniform early.

CSA-approved safety glasses and black steel-toed duty boots may be purchased where available.





Ballistic vests

The SAIT paramedic programs do not require ballistic vests.

Many practitioners can be issued a ballistic vest by their employer as PPE. This is an employee's decision if they want the ballistic vest or not.

As a best practice for scene safety, police deem the situation safe before EMS crews enter, and our students are not first in any situation where this type of PPE is required.

If you wish to purchase your own ballistic vest for use on practicum, you can do so through the AHS-approved vendor Urban Tactical, Winnipeg, which has the required minimum specifications for a ballistic vest.

If you decide to purchase and wear the vest, you must ensure that your SAIT crest and student identification are clearly visible on the vest without compromising the integrity of the vest.

If you have a ballistic vest from an employer, you are not allowed to wear that employer's issue as part of the SAIT uniform.

If you choose to wear a ballistic vest during your program, you must purchase a personal ballistic vest.

Ballistic vests are personally fitted, have a limited lifespan, and are not resalable as they do not provide the appropriate protection second-hand. If you choose to wear a personal ballistic vest, you must wear it for every call during your practicum rotations.

Additional fees

- A fee of $75 per semester is associated with the CompTracker application used in this program.
- A fee is associated with obtaining a police information check, including a vulnerable sector check, payable to the police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
- The School of Health and Public Safety strongly recommends that students meet Alberta Health Services' Standard for Immunization of Post-Secondary Health Care Students. Fees for completing immunization requirements start at $85, however, may increase, depending on your vaccination history, and any new immunizations you choose to acquire.
- A fee of approximately $50 to $100 is associated with an electronic student permit checking submission, which is required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.
- You are responsible for additional expenses related to your practicum, including pre-practicum requirements and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.
- There is a fee for the Alberta College of Paramedics (ACP) provincial exam and a registration fee of $475. Annual renewal fees are approximately $425.
- A Class 4 Driver's license may be required for employment. We recommend you review the Alberta government information for requirements and begin the process while in the program.