



Advanced Care Paramedic

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

The Advanced Care Paramedic program provides education and training to those who wish to extend their professional training and credentials to work as paramedics.

You'll become extensively familiar with human anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology, as well as various pharmacological and other therapies.

You'll spend your first year acquiring a strong theoretical framework in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, treatments for various medical and traumatic emergencies, adult advanced life support, neonatal resuscitation protocol, and assessment skills. Opportunities to practice these skills and integrate theory into practice are provided through simulation laboratory classes.

In the second year, you'll begin your clinical and ambulance practicum placements while simultaneously learning about precepting and professional practice. Based on the availability of practicum sites, you may have to travel or relocate anywhere in Alberta (and, in some circumstances, to other provinces) to complete your practicum.

You'll also prepare for registration with the Alberta College of Paramedics as an Advanced Care Paramedic.

The program includes both theory and hands-on learning with high-fidelity human patient simulation education in the Centre for Advanced Patient Care Simulation, supplemented with clinical and ambulance practica. Classes take place both on campus and online.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

You'll experience success in this program and profession by developing the following traits, skills and aptitudes:

- fine motor skills
- critical thinking and adaptability
- effective communication skills (speaking, reading, writing, and listening)
- the ability to work independently
- the ability to participate in classroom, lab, and practicum activities as scheduled by the program
- ability to work well under stress
- ability to use technology
- attention to detail
- ability to maintain professional behaviour and emotionally self-regulate
- wear personal protective equipment for extended periods and tolerate latex and disinfection chemicals
- work extended hours, including nights and/or weekends and shift work
- ability to tolerate the sight of human blood and tissue
- ability to assist in transporting, lifting, and positioning patients and/or equipment and meet the physical demands of the job (for example, spending most hours working on your feet, walking, repetitive bending, and repetitive tasks)
- become comfortable performing patient care procedures which may be sensitive or performed in close proximity.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to refer to the [ALIS website for career, learning, and employment information for Emergency Medical Personnel](#), the [Paramedicine National Occupational Competency Profile](#) and [Alberta Health Service's F.A.R.E. Paramedic requirements](#) to understand the functional ability required to meet the competency-based objectives and occupational requirements for the program and profession.

Some examples include:

- lifting a stretcher with a 95.5 kg (210 lbs) patient with a partner from a lower level to the load position and back down
- lifting and carrying a long spine board with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascending and descending 10 stairs with a partner
- pushing a stair chair 10 m with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascending and descending 20 stairs with a partner
- lifting a bilateral side carry of 9 kg (20 lbs) of weight in each hand
- front carry 18 kg (40 lbs)

- perform CPR for 2 minutes.

Academic path

The opportunity to advance your education by transferring into this program or gain credit for previous postsecondary courses may be available.

There may also be opportunities to further your education by transferring to another institution once you graduate.

Learn more about [program and institution transfer options](#).

Professional designations and certifications

Once you graduate, you're eligible to register with the Alberta College of Paramedics and work in Alberta as an advanced care paramedic.

Other certificates received include Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), International Trauma Life Support (ITLS), and Advanced and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).

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

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be awarded a SAIT Advanced Care Paramedic diploma.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

In your second year, you'll participate in preceptor-supervised clinical and ambulance learning experiences.

The [School of Health and Public Safety](#) has many practicum partners in Alberta and Canada. Practicum placements in Calgary are limited, and you may be required to travel or relocate outside the city.

Successful applicants will be assigned their practicum placement. While we'll strive to assign your practicum location based on your preference, it is not guaranteed. Special considerations will not be given. You will be responsible for fees associated with the practicum, such as entrance requirements, relocation and travel costs.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our clinical partners, successful applicants will be requested to provide proof of the following:

- Current Heart and Stroke Foundation BLS Provider course
- Updated immunization records
- Security clearance
- N95 respiratory mask fitting
- Health and wellness status

If you cannot obtain a tight facial seal due to the presence of facial hair and refuse to shave for religious reasons, you will be considered unfit by AHS standards and will not be allowed to participate in an ambulance practicum. As practicum is an essential component of this program, you cannot complete it successfully.

[More about practicum requirements](#)

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

All applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) and meet the following requirements or equivalents.

Completion of a [Primary Care Paramedic](#) or an Emergency Medical Technician certificate program or equivalent. Proof of completion must be submitted by August 1.

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 out what educational documents are accepted and assessment options.](#)

SAIT may also accept courses completed at certain [international post-secondary institutions.](#)

Costs

2023/24 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2023. They are an estimate of tuition and fees based on the recommended course load per year.

Domestic Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	3	\$9,028	\$2,030	\$11,058
2	2	\$6,588	\$1,570	\$8,158
Total cost:				\$19,216

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.](#)

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 directly to determine if they're still refining course details or if you're in luck; no textbook purchase is required this term.

Required equipment/tools

You will be evaluated on your competency performance level using a tracking system called [CompTracker](#). You will require a wifi-enabled Apple tablet that can run the most up-to-date operating system to support the CompTracker system.

- Any size tablet is acceptable.
- Keyboards are advisable but not mandatory.
- Smartphones are **not** acceptable devices for CompTracker.

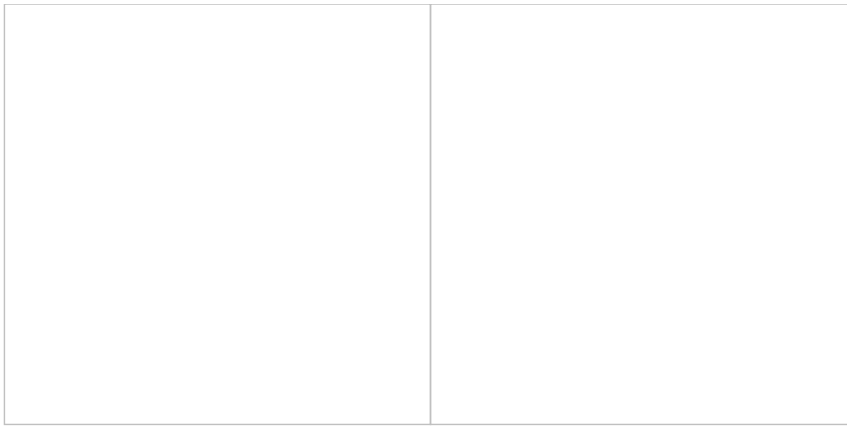
There is a required user license fee of \$75 billed on a per-semester basis. More information will be shared at orientation.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

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.

Currently, 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

- There is a fee for the Alberta College of Paramedics (ACP) provincial exam and an annual registration fee. ACP annual registration fees are approximately \$425 (the initial registration fee is approximately \$475).
- There is a fee associated with obtaining a Police Information Check, including a Vulnerable Sector Check and is payable to the Police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- You must have your immunizations reviewed by the SAIT Health Clinic. There is a \$75 charge to review vaccine history. Any vaccines to be administered will result in additional charges.
- A fee of approximately \$50-\$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.
- 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.