Automotive Service Technology

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

If you're passionate about cars and want to build a rewarding career in the automotive industry, this two-year diploma program will set you up for success.

With guidance from our industry-experienced instructors, you will:

- learn automotive vehicle maintenance, diagnosis and repairs
- study manufacturer specifications
- gain customer service and communication skills
- work on actual cars and gain real-world experience.

Once you graduate, you'll have various career options, including working as an apprentice or service advisor in a general or specialty automotive shop.

Many of our graduates choose to continue their training through an apprenticeship. Graduates are eligible to challenge the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Automotive Service Technician periods one through four exams, a big step towards becoming a journeyperson certified automotive service technician.

As a journeyperson technician, you can specialize in engines, driveability, electrical systems, chassis systems, wheel alignment and automatic transmissions. You'll also have the potential to advance beyond mechanics into management positions like shop foreman or service manager.

With a high demand for automotive service technicians, you'll have a great chance of finding a job in the trade.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Automotive service technicians tend to be objective, innovative and methodical.

You need:

- an Alberta driver's license
- good hearing, eyesight and manual dexterity
- mechanical aptitude and interest
- a working knowledge of electricity, electronics and computers
- customer service skills.

You should enjoy performing tasks that require precision, working with your hands and working independently.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

In the second year of this program, you'll participate in a capstone project where you'll work in teams to complete research, collect and analyze data and produce a project proposal.

Your team will then execute your proposal, develop progress reports, and a final report and present your outcomes and findings.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

This program aligns with the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) curriculum for Automotive Service Technicians, periods one through four.

Graduates are eligible to challenge the technical training exams.

Upon passing, you can register as an apprentice and complete the on-the-job training hours to earn your journeyperson designation. Graduates are eligible to receive a 156-hour, on-the-job training credit towards each of the four periods of the Automotive Service

Technician apprenticeship.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing this program, you'll be awarded a SAIT Automotive Service Technology diploma.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

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

- at least 50% in Math 20-1 or 20-2 or 20-3, and
- at least 50% in English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2, and
- at least 50% in a Grade 11 science.

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 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	2	$11,809.80	$1,764.50	$13,574.30
2	2	$11,809.80	$1,764.50	$13,574.30
			Total cost:	**$27,148.60**

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

If you began this program prior to July 2026, the following tuition and fees apply:

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	2	$7,500	$1,764.50	$9,264.50
2	2	$7,500	$1,764.50	$9,264.50
			Total cost:	**$18,529**

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year

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

Why are there two tuition rates for domestic students? Learn more about ETI adjustments.

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	$20,790	$1,764.50	$22,554.50
2	2	$20,790	$1,764.50	$22,554.50
			Total cost:	**$45,109**

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 $450 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 personal protective equipment (PPE)

The industry-approved PPE you'll need will be discussed during your first few days of classes.

You will need:

- CSA-approved steel-toe boots and safety glasses
- welding gloves
- earplugs (supplied)
- coveralls.

Service technician coveralls will be available for purchase at the start of the semester. Tools will be provided.

Required equipment/tools

Tools will be provided throughout your program.

A driver's license and the ability to maneuver a vehicle in tight spaces and drive a manual transmission vehicle are highly recommended to succeed in this program and industry.