Cabinetmaker

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION

Overview

Learn to build and repair custom or production-type fixtures and furniture made of wood or wood substitutes with manual and CNC machinery.

As a cabinetmaker, you'll build wood units, create detailed drawings and make layouts and patterns. You'll set up and operate woodworking equipment before cutting, shaping, moulding and assembling components. During assembly, you'll use glue, clamps, dowels, nails and screws to secure pieces together. You'll also apply veneer, finishing products or apply plastic laminates.

On the job, you'll estimate materials, select wood or other materials and consult with customers on projects. You may do refinishing or restoration work with furniture, as well as install cabinetry and millwork. You'll use a variety of tools, including manual or hand tools, as well as Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) equipment.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Cabinetmakers are skilled tradespeople with a knack for creativity. They are motivated and enjoy working collaboratively with others.

To succeed in this trade, you should:

- understand and interpret drawings, blueprints and specifications to visualize a final product
- be adaptable to unexpected challenges
- enjoy problem-solving
- have good communication skills
- pay attention to detail
- produce high-quality, precise work
- have good eyesight to identify surface imperfections and select suitable woods
- have good hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity to work with precision tools
- be committed to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and technical training periods, you'll be awarded an advanced diploma in addition to journeyperson status by Alberta's Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

This is a Red Seal Endorsed trade – a recognizable standard that allows tradespeople to work across Canada.

Admission requirements

To enter an apprenticeship, you must have the educational qualifications required or recommended education for the trade to which you apply.

Entrance requirements are monitored and set by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Minimum requirements

Successful completion of the following courses:

- English 10-2
- Math 10-3

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests

OR

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Entrance exam.

Recommended requirements

Apprentices with an Alberta High School Diploma that includes the following courses:

- English 30-2
- Math 30-3
- Physics 20 OR Chemistry 20 OR Science 20
- Related career and technology studies (CTS) courses

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

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

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
2	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
3	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
4	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
			Total cost:	**$6,454**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Books and Supplies

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.

Books or modules, along with other items for classes, are approximately $600 per period.

We recommend you don't purchase books or modules ahead of time as they might be outdated by the time you attend classes, and they cannot be returned to the Bookstore.

This program requires personal protective equipment (PPE), which may be an additional cost.