Community Economic Development

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Overview

We designed this program for those interested in making a positive impact in their communities. This field involves helping small businesses grow and working with the government.

Jobs in community economic development include roles like economic development specialists or coordinators, community liaisons, and non-profit managers. Our practical courses will give you the skills you need to make a difference in both urban and rural communities.

In this program, you'll:

- discover how to create partnerships between businesses and government to support community growth
- improve your communication skills, which are essential for working with others
- learn how to plan, execute, and report on projects that benefit your community and acquire the skills needed to lead and manage teams
- learn how to understand, read and interpret financial statements, a crucial skill for managing money in community projects
- develop the ability to research and write business plans and project proposals that support diversification and economic growth
- acquire the fundamentals of starting and growing businesses and the skills to recommend resources and solutions for business challenges
- discover how to find and create economic opportunities and capital for your community
- learn how to bring people and organizations together to work toward a common goal and understand how politics and community factors can influence decisions and solutions.

You can take this program entirely online and study from anywhere.

This program is for you if you want to make a positive change in your community or help small businesses grow.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those who work in community economic development tend to be directive, innovative, and social.

You need:

- an energetic and engaging personality
- strong interest in the business community
- critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- advanced research skills
- a strategic mindset
- the ability to analyze and condense information in a logical way
- confidence in presenting concepts
- communication skills
- the ability to give clear, concise advice and recommendations
- relationship-building skills
- the ability to manage complex projects
- the ability to work under pressure and juggle different agendas
- leadership skills.

You should enjoy working with people, finding new ways to handle problems, and conducting research.

SAIT program pathways

This certificate provides you with options to advance your education.

Graduates can receive credit for up to 10 courses required for the Business Administration diploma or Bachelor of Business

Administration degree (varies by major). Additional admission requirements apply.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing this program, you'll earn a SAIT Community Economic Development certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency.

There are no further requirements to enter this program.

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.

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