Crane and Hoisting Operator - Boom Truck

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

Learn to service and operate the hoist and swing equipment used to move machinery, materials and other large objects.

If you like to work independently and are a capable decision-maker, you'll enjoy a career as a mobile crane operator. You'll set up, service and operate hydraulic booms mounted on turrets that are affixed to trucks and are capable of moving heavy loads.

Certification is required when operating:

- booms (including telescoping booms and articulating booms possessing live lines) capable of swinging, hoisting and booming up and down with a lifting capacity of greater than five tons (4.5 tonnes) and equal to or less than 65 tons (59 tonnes)
- articulating booms without live lines with a lifting capacity of greater than eight tons (7.3 tonnes) and equal to or less than 65 tons (59 tonnes).

As an operator, you'll manipulate several pedals and levers to rotate the crane. You'll also raise and lower loads. You may perform all or some of these operations simultaneously.

To work in this trade, certification is required. This means that you must either be a registered apprentice who is working under the guidance of a certified journeyperson or you must be a certified journeyperson yourself.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

To be successful in this trade, you should:

- have good coordination and manual dexterity
- be comfortable working at heights
- have strength, stamina and the ability to use proper lifting techniques
- have good vision
- be able to work as part of a team and communicate with ground crews, usually using hand signals and voice communication
- be comfortable working outside in a variety of weather conditions.

Credentials

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

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	6	$942	$338	$1,280
			Total cost:	**$1,280**

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 $1,150.

We recommend you pre-purchase your books shortly before the start of class and have them shipped to your home address. Instructions and links will be emailed to you two weeks prior to the class start date. You may also purchase your books and supplies in person at the SAIT Bookstore.