Crane and Hoisting Operator - Mobile Crane

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 service and operate booms that are mounted on crawlers or wheeled frames as well as travelling, fixed or climbing-type hoisting equipment with a vertical mast or tower and a jib.

You'll manipulate a number of pedals and levers to rotate the crane and raise and lower its boom and one or more load lines. Some or all of these operations may be performed simultaneously.

Certification is required when operating mobile cranes with a lifting capacity of 13 tons (13.6 tonnes) and over. You may drive the crane to the job site, rig the machine up (pin the boom and pendant cables and pull the hoist cable in preparation for operation) and set up the machine for the lift (make it level and stable) using blocking and levelling materials.

To work in this trade, certification is required. This means 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

Mobile crane operators are skilled tradespeople who are motivated and enjoy working independently.

To succeed in this trade, you should:

- be coordinated and have manual dexterity
- be comfortable working at heights
- have the strength, stamina and ability to use proper lifting techniques
- have good vision
- be able to work as part of a team and communicate with ground crews using hand signals and voice communication
- be committed to safe work habits.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and technical training periods, you'll be awarded a certificate 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	6	$942	$338	$1,280
3	6	$942	$338	$1,280
			Total cost:	**$2,560**

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

Domestic Students

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.

We recommend you pre-purchase your books shortly before the start of class and have them shipped to your home address. Books, modules and PPE are approximately $450 for the first period.

If they haven't been purchased for the third period, they will total $1,150. 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.