



Culinary Arts

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Overview

Led by renowned chefs, our two-year Culinary Arts program offers expert, hands-on instruction at one of the best culinary schools in Canada. Train alongside culinary pros, gaining expertise in foundational cooking, garde manger, global cuisines, patisserie, culinary management and other culinary techniques.

Whether you want to be an executive chef, sous-chef, food stylist or pursue hotel and convention centre culinary opportunities, this program will prepare you.

Our focus is your success with small class sizes, personalized support, and upgraded facilities, including the Charcuterie Lab and SAIT's gourmet Marketplace. Real-world experiences at the Highwood restaurant, downtown Campus, and 4 Nines Dining Centre prepare you for the culinary industry.

Under professional chefs' guidance, develop essential cooking skills and stay updated with current trends through hands-on public cooking experiences, teamwork, and honing your professionalism and communication. You'll attain skills beyond those taught at the average cooking school.

You'll be able to showcase your skills during your year-end capstone courses. After graduating, you can go on to take additional exams to become a Red Seal chef.

Professional paid internship and study tours

Participate in a paid internship in your third semester, gaining industry exposure and connections.

Explore international destinations like Australia, France, Spain, Italy, Chile, and Thailand by participating in one of our optional study tours.

Global recognition through chef competitions

Compete locally and globally in culinary competitions, opening doors to a global career path.

Our students have secured gold and silver in Provincial and National Skills, Canadian Chef Association competitions, and top-three rankings in competitions worldwide, including France, Shanghai, Singapore, and Toronto over the last several years.

SAIT graduates have even competed in the prestigious Top Chef Canada competition. Whatever your culinary dreams and goals, this program will prepare you to bring the heat.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those who work in culinary arts tend to be directive, methodical and innovative.

You need:

- a genuine love of food and cuisine
- artistic and creative talent
- good health and stamina
- a keen sense of taste and smell
- excellent hand-eye coordination
- strong math skills
- a memory for details
- communication skills, interpersonal skills and team-building skills
- the ability to remain calm in hectic circumstances
- the ability to stand for long periods
- willingness to work evenings and weekends or irregular hours
- organizational skills

- respect for food safety standards.

You should enjoy planning and organizing menus, supervising the work of others, and using tools and equipment to perform tasks.

Academic path

This program aligns with the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) curriculum for all three technical training periods for Cooks.

You can challenge the first-year provincial exam after completing your first year, the second-year exam after completing your third and fourth semesters (provided you passed the first-year government exam), and the third-year exam after graduation (provided you passed the first and second-year government exams.)

Upon passing the exams, you can register as an apprentice and complete the 4,680 on-the-job training hours to earn your journeyperson designation.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, you'll receive a SAIT Culinary Arts diploma.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

During your third semester, you'll participate in a professional paid internship for a minimum of 240 hours.

During your internship, you'll learn in a real-world environment while you develop valuable industry connections and network with future employers.

You can also broaden your horizons and take advantage of exciting international study tours. Previous tour locations include Australia, France, Spain, Italy, Chile, and Thailand. Study tours are optional and have additional costs.

Finally, you'll participate in a year-end capstone project, where you'll showcase and demonstrate your skills.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

All applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) and meet all the following requirements or equivalents:

- at least 50% in English Language Arts 10-1, English Language Arts 10-2 or Humanities 10, and
- at least 50% in Math 10C or Math 10-3.

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 outlined above 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

2025/26 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2025.

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.

Students in this program pay an additional mandatory fee of \$188.00 per year of study for uniform and apron laundry services.

Domestic Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	2	\$8,475	\$1,856.60	\$10,331.60
2	2	\$8,136	\$1,856.60	\$9,992.60
Total cost:				\$20,324.20

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

International Students

The program total is based on the estimated amount you will pay if you enter this program during the 2025/26 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	\$26,962.50	\$1,856.60	\$28,819.10
2	2	\$25,884	\$1,856.60	\$27,740.60
Total cost:				\$56,559.70

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 \$900. You will need to purchase these in your first week.

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 close to your 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 for that term.

Required equipment/tools

You must purchase a professional knife kit.

The cost is \$200 and must be purchased through a dedicated website.

You will receive an email one month before your start date to purchase the kit by credit card.

Required uniform

One of your first steps to becoming a Culinary Arts student is to make sure you have the required attire on your first day of class and

dress appropriately throughout the program.



Your uniform includes:

- Hairnet (all hair must be tucked into your hairnet)
- Chef's hat
- Necktie
- Chef's whites
- Name tag
- Waist apron
- Chef's pants
- Chef's clogs or non-slip shoes

Jewelry, including rings, bracelets and dangling earrings, are not to be worn in class. Wedding bands, stud earrings and watches are acceptable.

Your Chef's jacket, waist apron and pants are required with an annual laundry fee of \$250 (included in your tuition).

Your Chef's hat, necktie, hairnets and gloves (included in the tool kit) are available from The Market Place.

SAIT will have a vendor on site on the Orientation day selling professional non-slip kitchen shoes, but shoes can also be purchased at any professional shoe vendor. We suggest buying a clog-style shoe.

Wearing your uniform to class is mandatory.

Internship fees

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<https://www.sait.ca/programs-and-courses/diplomas/culinary-arts>

Internship course fees are due in May of your first year (approximately \$553 for domestic students.)

This is included in the overall tuition listed in the fee table. However, it often comes as a surprise since most of your tuition is due in August and January.

Optional study tour

There is an optional international study tour between the first and second years. If interested, you should budget approximately \$3,500.