



Dental Assisting

Learn to educate dental patients and assist dentists and hygienists in chair-side procedures by becoming a dental assistant for private dental clinics, specialists' offices or health centres.

The Dental Assisting program focuses on patient-centred care in support of improving oral health as a key to personal health and well-being.

As vital members of the dental health team, dental assistants work in private dental clinics, specialists' offices and community health centres. Skills and content covered include clinic operations, chair-side procedures, intra-oral procedures, patient education and interpersonal skills.

Students are required to attend classes on SAIT campus for this program. Classroom learning is integrated into a dental clinic setting. The clinical components include patient education, radiographs, selective rubber cup polishing and fluoride application.

This program includes an unpaid practicum at a dental office.

Is this the right fit for me?

Job expectations for success in this profession include:

- fine motor skills
- critical thinking
- communication (e.g. verbal, reading, writing, and listening)
- able to participate in classroom, lab, and practicum activities as scheduled by the program
- able to work well under stress
- able to use technology
- attention to detail
- able to maintain professional behaviour; emotional self-regulation
- able to wear Personal Protective Equipment for extended periods of time
- able to work extended hours, including nights and/or weekends and shift work
- able to tolerate the sight of human blood and tissue
- able to meet the physical demands of the job (e.g. spend most hours working on your feet, walking, repetitive bending, repetitive tasks)
- able to tolerate latex and disinfection chemicals
- able to sit for long periods of time (3-4 hours)
- comfortable with performing patient care procedures which may be sensitive or performed in close proximity

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to refer to the [ALIS website for career](#), learning, and employment information for Dental Assistants, as well as the governing body's competency profile for the profession, to ensure that they are able to successfully demonstrate the skills required to achieve all the competency-based objectives for the program and profession.

Accreditation

The Dental Assisting program delivered by SAIT is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, graduates will receive a SAIT Dental Assisting certificate.

Graduates must write the National Dental Assisting Examining Board examination to be registered in Alberta. Graduates are licensed by the College of Alberta Dental Assistants as Registered Dental Assistants once they have passed the National Dental Assisting Examining Board examination.

Admission requirements

Admission dates

This program may not have an intake every semester. See available intakes above.

Intake semester	Semester begins	Applications open	Domestic applications close*	International applications close
Winter 2023	Jan. 9, 2023	March 30, 2022	Oct. 27, 2022	Now closed
Spring 2023	May 8, 2023	June 13, 2022	Feb. 24, 2023	Jan. 23, 2023
Summer 2023	July 4, 2023	Oct. 5, 2022	April 28, 2023	June 20, 2023
Fall 2023	Sept. 5, 2023	Oct. 5, 2022	June 28, 2023	May 23, 2023
Winter 2024	Jan. 8, 2024	March 29, 2023	Oct. 26, 2023	Sept. 28, 2023
Spring 2024	May 6, 2024	June 12, 2023	Feb. 23, 2024	Jan. 22, 2024

*In some instances, domestic applications will be accepted after the application deadline. In that case, the program's intake status will remain open.

Program requirements

Completion of the following courses or equivalents with an overall average of at least 60%:

- Math 30-1 or Math 30-2, and
- English Language Arts 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2, and,
- Biology 30, and,
- Chemistry 30.

Additional requirements

- Student information and dental health examination are required by the first day of class.

All applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) prior to admission, including students educated in Canada.

SAIT accepts [high school course equivalents](#) for admission. If you don't meet the requirements, consider [Academic Upgrading](#).

SAIT evaluates international documents for admissions. After you've applied, consider our [international document assessment](#) service if your education is from outside of Canada. SAIT may also accept courses completed at certain [international post-secondary institutions](#).

Direct entry: four-step process

Step 1: Read the program information to see the qualities needed for student success.

Step 2: Ensure that you meet all of the admission requirements listed above.

Step 3: [Apply to the program](#) and [submit your transcripts](#).

Admission will be extended on a first-qualified, first-offered basis until the program is full.

Step 4: Continue to monitor your [application status](#) through [mySAIT.ca](#).

You must [submit final transcripts/grades](#) to show you have completed the courses and met the minimum admission requirements by the transcript deadline or your seat will be rescinded.

This program meets the eligibility criteria for the [Post-Graduation Work Permit program](#) for international students as long as the student is enrolled in the on-campus delivery mode or completes more than 50% of the courses on campus (for the blended option). International students attending all classes online will NOT be eligible for a Post-Graduate Work Permit. International students are responsible for maintaining their eligibility throughout their studies.

Communication during admission

Email is the primary source of communication during the admission process. Ensure your personal email account is managed appropriately to receive our emails, files and communications.

We recommend you add hps.info@sait.ca domain to your safe senders' list or you risk missing critical email messages.

When do classes start?

Classes for this program adhere to the following year start and end dates based on the semester the student begins their program.

Classes begin	Year start date	Year end date
Spring 2022	May 9, 2022	Feb. 23, 2023
Fall 2022	Sept. 6, 2022	June 30, 2023
Spring 2023	May 8, 2023	Feb. 22, 2024
Fall 2023	Sept. 5, 2023	April 28, 2024

Practicum requirements

The [School of Health and Public Safety](#) has many practica partners located within Alberta and across Canada. Practicum placements in Calgary are limited and students may be required to relocate outside of Calgary for practicum.

Successful candidates will be informed of the allocation of their practicum placement by the program. There is no guarantee that students will be placed at their desired practicum location. Special considerations of personal circumstances will not be given in regard to assigning practicum placements.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our clinical partners, successful candidates will be requested to provide proof of the following requirements:

- Current Heart and Stroke Foundation Health Care Provider Level (C) CPR
- Updated immunization records
- Security clearance - Police Information Check including Vulnerable Sector Check
- Health and wellness status

Costs 2022/23

Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$198

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	3	\$8,019	\$1,214	\$698.50	\$9,931.50

International tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$581.63

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	3	\$23,556.02	\$1,214	\$698.50	\$25,468.52

*Maximum fee. Actual fees may be less and are based on the number of credits a student takes per semester and whether they opt-out of health and dental benefits.

SAIT fees

- Campus athletic and recreation fee: \$294
- Universal transit pass (Upass): \$320
- Student support fee: \$300
- Student technology fee: \$300

Saitsa fees

Student Association fee

- Maximum: \$436.50

This is the maximum amount the student will pay. Actual fees may be less and are based on the number of credits the students take per semester.

Health and dental fees

- Health plan: \$127
- Dental plan: \$135

Students with existing health and/or dental plans can opt-out. Please refer to [Saitsa's website](#) for information.

For more information on health and dental benefits for international students, please contact the [International Centre](#).

Books and supplies*

Books, supplies and uniforms are approximately \$1,500.

Personal protective equipment (Rx safety glasses, face shields) may range from \$100 - \$750 depending on individual requirements.

For an estimate of the costs associated with purchasing a computer that meets the program's hardware and software requirements, see our [computers and laptops page](#).

Students are responsible for any additional expenses related to their practicum, including pre-practicum requirements as outlined by the program, and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.

Additional fees

- There is a fee associated with obtaining a Police Information Check (including Vulnerable Sector Check), payable to the police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- The National Dental Assisting Examining Board exam fee is approximately \$450. The College of Alberta Dental Assistants' annual dues are approximately \$300.
- CPRS 001 BLS Provider (Level C) CPR course. Annual update required (CPRS 002 BLS Renewal [Level C] CPR).
- Students must have their immunizations reviewed by the SAIT Health Clinic. There is a \$75 charge to review vaccine history. Any vaccines to be administered will result in additional charges.
- There is a fee, approximately \$50-\$100, associated with an Electronic Student Permit Checking submission which is required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.

Learn more about [tuition and financial aid](#).

*Tuition, fees, books and supply costs are subject to change.