Early Childhood Education Certificate

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

Designed for those passionate about shaping young minds, our comprehensive Early Childhood Education certificate program equips you with the necessary skills, knowledge, and practical experience to work in various early childhood education settings.

You will gain a thorough understanding of early childhood education, focusing on care for children from newborn to age 12, ensuring a well-rounded perspective on child development.

You will benefit from a unique mix of classroom instruction and hands-on experience. In community settings, engage directly with children, families, and other professionals in early childhood education (ECE).

In this program, you will:

- learn to establish and maintain safe, respectful, and inclusive play environments by nurturing young children, supporting their families and engaging with communities to foster ongoing learning and growth
- cultivate a foundational understanding of child development, including effective strategies, best practices, and the design of responsive, relationship-based learning environments
- become proficient in essential skills like communication, observation, documentation, digital literacy, positive behaviour guidance, problem-solving, and collaboration, all crucial for supporting the holistic development and well-being of children under your care
- gain frameworks and perspectives, including Flight (Alberta's early learning and care framework) and broaden your perspective on key concepts such as wellness, development, equity, diversity, inclusive education, inclusion, reconciliation, ethics, and child-centred learning within the ECE environment.

As a graduate, you'll be a well-equipped Early Childhood Education professional, ready to take on challenging roles and make a positive difference in the lives of children and their families. Your comprehensive training will position you at the forefront of early childhood education, ready to contribute to the field with innovative ideas and practices.

This program is ideal for those looking to start or advance their careers in early childhood education, who are passionate about child development, and who seek to make a meaningful impact in the early years of a child's life.

Embark on this rewarding journey and shape the future by nurturing the minds and hearts of the youngest learners.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Early childhood educators are social, methodical and directive.

You need:

- to be playful, sensitive, and caring toward children
- initiative and enthusiasm
- resilience, persistence, and the ability to regulate your emotions
- critical-thinking skills
- to model respectful behaviour and language
- a healthy lifestyle and physical fitness
- to prioritize ethical decision-making and practice
- consistent, positive strategies to guide children's behaviour
- to plan for, observe, engage with, and support children's play and learning
- to communicate and work respectfully with children, parents, caregivers and other professionals
- to document interactions with children, parents, caregivers and other professionals clearly
- to take time to learn about each child and create a curriculum based on that learning.

You should enjoy taking a creative and open-minded approach to your work and building relationships with people, especially children. You should be at ease taking responsibility and supervising others.

You are strongly encouraged to refer to the ALIS website for career, learning, and employment information for early childhood educators to ensure you can successfully meet the occupational requirements for the program and profession.

SAIT program pathways

Graduates of this program meet the admission requirements for SAIT's Early Childhood Education diploma program.

In addition, this program's curriculum aligns with the first year of the diploma program, allowing you to earn your diploma with just one additional year of study.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

In this program, you'll participate in two practicum work placements that will combine professional observation, practical experience and integrated theory classes.

You will be assigned practicum placements with consideration given to your preference of location. However, due to limited availability in Calgary, it might be necessary for you to travel or relocate outside the city.

The education field has a strong focus on health, wellness, and fitness to practice due to the demanding nature of the work and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. As such, special considerations will not be granted based on individual circumstances or preferences, except those stated as protected grounds when an accommodation has been approved.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our partners, you will be required to provide specific documentation before you can participate in your practicum. Find out what requirements you need for this program.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

Graduates are eligible to apply for the Level 2 Early Childhood Educator certification from the Government of Alberta, which is required by the Early Learning and Child Care Act to work as a frontline caregiver in the province.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, you'll be awarded a SAIT Early Childhood Education certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

All applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and meet the following requirements or equivalents:

- at least 65% in English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2.

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 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 the suggested schedule of study. 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	$4,680	$1,764.50	$6,444.50
			Total cost:	**$6,444.50**

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 2026/27 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	$13,770	$1,764.50	$15,534.50
			Total cost:	**$15,534.50**

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 $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. Your device must be portable. An Apple or Windows-based laptop or tablet is preferred over other devices. Phones are not suitable.

Find your booklist on the SAIT Bookstore's website. Booklists are created by semester and available approximately two weeks before classes begin.

Additional fees

- A fee is associated with obtaining a police information check, including a vulnerable sector check, payable to the police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
- A fee of approximately $50 to $100 is associated with an electronic student permit checking submission required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.
- Standard First Aid and CPR (Level B or C) certifications are required. These must be from a Canadian provider, and remain valid during all practicum rotations.
- You are responsible for additional expenses related to your practicum, including pre-practicum requirements and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.