Network Systems Specialist

SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Overview

In today's interconnected world, robust and adaptable computer networks are essential for success across industries. Our Network Systems Specialist program is designed to equip you with the skills needed to thrive in this critical field.

Through classroom learning and hands-on experience, you will gain expertise in computer network design, maintenance and support, making you job-ready as a network systems specialist.

In this program, you will:

- join Cisco Networking Academy, a leading program specializing in computer networking, troubleshooting and security, ensuring you're well-prepared for the industry
- learn practical problem-solving, allowing you to tackle technical challenges and deliver timely solutions within project scope, preparing you for a successful IT career.

As a graduate, you'll be equipped to pursue roles such as network systems specialist, network or systems administrator, network support analyst, IT consultant or technician, network or technical support specialist, or related positions in various sectors, including public, private and community-based organizations.

Prior knowledge of computer operating systems, cloud technologies or networking gained through education, industry experience, certifications or online tutorials is highly recommended.

Join us to build the skills and knowledge needed for a thriving career in IT.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those working in network systems analysis tend to be objective, methodical and directive.

You need:

- logical thinking skills
- communication skills
- people skills
- the ability to study complex problems
- the ability to be calm and efficient under pressure
- the ability to ask the right questions to understand problems
- a keen interest in keeping up to date with technology.

The ideal candidate for the Network Systems Specialist program is a motivated, mature learner interested in specializing in computer networking or upgrading their existing skills.

This intensive program requires a significant commitment of time and energy. Experience with computer hardware or operating and networking systems is an asset but not required.

To do well in this field, you should enjoy studying information and solving problems, taking a precise step-by-step approach to tasks, working with changing technologies and helping others.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

You'll participate in a capstone project incorporating all the skills you've learned to build and manage networks.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

By the end of the program, you'll be prepared to challenge the Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA) exams.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, you'll be awarded a SAIT Network Systems Specialist certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and completion of the following courses or equivalents:

- a minimum grade of 60% in English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2 or equivalent, or
- a minimum of two years of post-secondary education from a recognized university, institute, or college.

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	1.0	$9,177	$1,083	$10,260
			Total cost:	**$10,260**

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	1.0	$14,679	$1,083.25	$15,762.25
			Total cost:	**$15,762.25**

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 power-user computer hardware and software requirement. See the specific requirements on our computers and laptops page.

You may also be required to purchase hosted virtual lab tools.

Find your booklist on the SAIT Bookstore's website. The booklist will be available closer to the program 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 this term.