



Network Systems Specialist

In our interconnected world, strong, resilient and scalable computer networks are critical to industry success. Through classroom training and practical application, this program will help you develop skills and competencies in computer network design, maintenance and support, to get you career-ready as a network systems specialist.

During this intensive 32-week certificate, you will develop skills in leading-edge technologies including cloud and server administration, virtualized infrastructure, and Linux administration. You'll also become a member of the Cisco Networking Academy to specialize in computer networking, troubleshooting, and security.

As a result of the practical focus of this program, you will gain valuable experience solving technical problems and providing solutions that are on-time and within scope. This experience is further bolstered by a mandatory 8-week practicum that completes the program, preparing you for a successful career in the information technology (IT) field.

Is this the right fit for me?

This is an intensive program requiring a significant commitment of time and energy. Students who are successful in this program typically:

- have higher secondary and/or post-secondary grades
- make their education a priority (including engaging in consistent self-study throughout the program)
- have experience with computer hardware and/or operating and networking systems (an asset, but not required).

Accreditation

By the end of the program, graduates will have the knowledge to challenge the Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA) exams.

With additional work experience and exam preparation, graduates may also become prepared to challenge other relevant industry exams, including the CompTIA A+ and VMWare certifications.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, graduates will be awarded a SAIT Network Systems Specialist certificate.

Admission requirements

Admission dates

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

Classes for this program may not start on the day term begins. Please see the specific start and end dates below or log into [mySAIT](#) to view your schedule.

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.

Ideal applicant

Created Date: 12/10/22

<https://www.sait.ca/programs-and-courses/certificates/network-systems-specialist>

The ideal candidate for the Network Systems Specialist (NSS) program is a motivated, mature learner with an interest in computer networking, who wants to specialize or to upgrade their existing skills.

You are technically proficient and detail-oriented. Your approach to problem-solving is both creative and logical, depending on the circumstances. You work well as part of a team and enjoy interacting with others. You possess a good working knowledge of operating systems and computer hardware. You are probably the person your friends and family go to when they have computer problems.

Admission requirements

Completion of the following courses or equivalents:

- at least 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.

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](#).

Due to the tight integration of the courses in the Network Technician (NT) program, credit for prior learning is not available.

Previous computer operating systems, cloud technologies and/or networking experience gained through education, industry experience, industry certifications, or completion of online tutorial related to computer operating systems or networking is strongly recommended.

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 selection process. Ensure your personal email account is managed appropriately to receive our emails, files and communications. We recommend you add the sadt.advising@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
Fall 2022	Oct. 31, 2022	May 5, 2023
Spring 2023	May 8, 2023	Dec. 15, 2023
Fall 2023	Oct. 30, 2023	June 28, 2024

Costs 2022/23

Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$421

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	2	\$13,893	\$916	\$553	\$15,362

International tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$662.06

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	2	\$21,847.98	\$916	\$553	\$23,316.98

*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.

This program is eligible for [Canada Alberta Job Grant](#) funding.

SAIT fees

- Campus athletic and recreation fee: \$196
- Universal transit pass (Upass): \$320
- Student support fee: \$200
- Student technology fee: \$200

Saitsa fees

Student Association fee

- Maximum: \$291

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 and supplies are approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500 per full-time year.

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](#).

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

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