



# Ophthalmic and Optometric Assisting

Learn the scientific principles imperative to ensuring optimal eye care as part of a multi-disciplinary team that includes ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians and medical technologists.

The Ophthalmic and Optometric Assisting certificate program is two semesters long (including a four-week practicum) and prepares students to operate as medical office professionals with specialized knowledge in ophthalmic (eye health) and optometric (vision care) terminology and clinical procedures.

Throughout the program, students will learn the scientific principles imperative to ensuring optimal eye care as part of a multi-disciplinary team that includes ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, and medical technologists. This program is unique in that it includes a combination of ophthalmic and optometric competencies, providing graduates with skillsets for two professions in one program.

## Is this the right fit for me?

Students with higher secondary or post-secondary marks and effective communication skills in English usually experience greater success in SAIT's programs.

Health care practitioners are detail-oriented in the care they provide and enjoy working in a team environment.

Basic computer skills are essential for success in this program.

## Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be awarded a SAIT Ophthalmic and Optometric Assisting certificate.

## Admission requirements

### Application dates

Applications are accepted until the program start date but are subject to change.

- **Fall 2022 start:** applications opened on Oct. 6, 2021.
- **Spring 2023 start:** applications opened on June 15, 2022.

### Program admission requirements

A minimum grade of 60% in each of the following courses or their equivalents:

- English Language Arts 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2
- Math 30-1 or Math 30-2 or Pure Math 30
- Biology 30 or Science 30
- All applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) prior to admission, including students educated in Canada.

### 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](#) and submit your [transcripts](#) and/or anticipated final grades.

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

**Step 4:** Log in to [mySAIT.ca](#) to check your admission status and monitor changes to your [application status](#).

Failure to meet anticipated final grades will result in offers being rescinded.

### 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](mailto:hps.info@sait.ca) domain to your safe senders' list or you risk missing critical email messages.

## 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. **Ophthalmic and Optometric Assisting students will be required to relocate outside of Calgary for practicum.** Although students are requested to indicate a location of their choice, there is no guarantee to be placed at the practicum location. Students will be responsible for fees associated with practicum such as entrance requirements, relocation and travel costs.

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

- Updated immunization records
- Security clearance - Police Information Check including Vulnerable Sector Check
- Health and wellness status

[Learn more](#)

## Costs 2022/23

### Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$283

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	2	\$7,641	\$916	\$553	\$9,110

### International tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$665.96

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	2	\$17,980.92	\$916	\$553	\$19,449.92

\*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: \$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.

## Books and supplies\*

Books and supplies are approximately \$1,200 per full-time year.

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.

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.