



Optician

Be at the forefront of eye care practice, working as part of a multi-disciplinary vision care team. Students will study ocular pathology, refracting and pharmacology, as well as business and retail aspects of the profession.

The Optician program trains students to be in the forefront of eye care practice, working as part of a multi-disciplinary vision care team.

Students will study ocular pathology, refracting and pharmacology, as well as business and retail aspects of the profession. Application of the theory will be demonstrated through clinical competencies focusing on refraction, filling eyeglass and contact lens prescriptions, ensuring a proper fit, and determining clients' eyewear needs.

These skills, along with business and retail skills, will be practiced and demonstrated in dynamic, patient-centered environments in the form of classroom lectures, laboratory practice, and clinical practicum placements.

Is this the right fit for me?

Students who experience success in this program and profession:

- have higher secondary and/or post-secondary grades
- have effective communication skills in English
- are detail-oriented and enjoy working in a team environment, and
- have a keen interest in health, science, and technology

Accreditation

The Optician program delivered by SAIT is aligned with the competencies outlined by the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) guidelines and will seek accreditation with Accreditation Canada starting in 2020/21.

Additionally, graduates will be prepared to challenge the National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulators (NACOR) exam and obtain a dual license as both a dispensing optician and a contact lens fitter.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be awarded a SAIT Optician Diploma.

Admission requirements

Application dates

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

- **Fall 2022 start:** applications are accepted starting Oct. 6, 2021.
- **Winter 2023 start:** applications opened on March 30, 2022.

Program requirements

A minimum grade of 65% 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
- Physics 20 or Biology 30 or Science 30

or

- Completion of the SAIT Ophthalmic and Optometric Assisting program or equivalent

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 domain to your safe senders' list or you risk missing critical email messages.

Clinical practicum

Practicum placements in Calgary are limited. **Optician 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.

Costs 2022/23

Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$314

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	3	\$10,362	\$1,065	\$698.50	\$12,125.50
2	3	\$10,362	\$1,065	\$698.50	\$12,125.50

International tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$714.58

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
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Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	3	\$23,581.14	\$1,065	\$698.50	\$25,344.64
2	3	\$23,581.14	\$1,065	\$698.50	\$25,344.64

*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: \$245
- Universal transit pass (Upass): \$320
- Student support fee: \$250
- Student technology fee: \$250

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*

The College of opticians of Alberta (COA) annual registration fees are approximately \$650. Applications to, and a license from, a regulatory body are required prior to a graduate working. Further fee information is available on the [COA website](#).

The National Alliance of Canadian Optician Regulator (NACOR) certification exam fees are:

- Optical Sciences 1: Eyeglasses and Optical Sciences: \$750
- Optical Sciences 2: Advanced Practice Contact Lenses: \$750

Students are responsible for any additional expenses related to their practicum including relocation, travel and accommodation costs for practicum sites outside Calgary.

Books, supplies and uniforms are approximately \$2,800.

Students are required to purchase a professional optician toolkit containing essential optical tools commonly used in practice, prior to attending labs in semester two. The kit is purchased directly through an external provider for an approximate cost of \$380 + tax. Information regarding the kit purchase will be provided during semester one.

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.