Pharmacy Assistant

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

Our dynamic and practical Pharmacy Assistant program is designed to equip you with the essential skills needed in modern pharmacies. As pharmacies become increasingly central to community health, especially with an aging population, the role of the pharmacy assistant becomes more critical.

This program offers comprehensive training, broad theoretical knowledge and practical skills like preparing prescriptions, managing inventory and customer service. You will learn to be an effective team member, providing critical support to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

As a student, you will:

- master the math required for accurate medication dispensing
- learn about pharmacotherapy, which is the understanding of medication uses and effects
- learn to handle prescriptions and patient orders efficiently
- acquire administrative skills crucial for pharmacy operations
- get hands-on experience in preparing custom medication mixtures
- develop strategies to maintain optimal stock levels
- enhance your ability to interact with customers and healthcare professionals.

You will apply your learning in a real-world pharmacy setting during your practicum.

By the end of this program, you will be prepared to step into a pharmacy assistant role, providing vital support to ensure the health and well-being of the community.

Whether you want to start a new career or advance in the healthcare sector, this program offers the foundation to succeed.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Pharmacy assistants tend to be methodical, innovative and objective.

You need:

- fine motor skills and manual dexterity
- composure and the ability to regulate your emotions in stressful situations
- a caring attitude toward others
- effective communication skills
- mental alertness while doing routine tasks
- attention to detail
- the ability to type accurately at a speed of 40 words per minute

Pharmacy assistants work on their feet and perform repetitive movements with their hands, wrists and arms for prolonged periods. Some positions require extended hours and shift work, including nights and weekends.

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

SAIT program pathways

Graduates of SAIT's Pre-Health Sciences program may meet the admission requirements for this program.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

You'll participate in a practicum during your last semester, where you'll apply your knowledge and skills in a pharmacy setting with a designated clinical partner.

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 of the city.

The healthcare 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 clinical 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.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, you will be awarded a SAIT Pharmacy Assistant certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

All applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and meet the following requirements or equivalents, with an overall average of at least 60%:

- Math 30-1 or 30-2, and
- 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	$7,416	$1,764.50	$9,180.50
			Total cost:	**$9,180.50**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees for domestic students is based on the recommended course load per year.

International Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	3	$16,104	$1,902.50	$18,006.50
			Total cost:	**$18,006.50**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees for international students is based on the extended delivery schedule.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $500.

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 Windows-based laptop or tablet is required, as the software used in this program is not compatible with Apple products. Phones are not suitable alternatives.

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

Required personal protective equipment (PPE)

You are required to wear scrubs to your labs. Scrubs must be cleaned and pressed.

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).
- The School of Health and Public Safety strongly recommends that students meet Alberta Health Services' Standard for Immunization of Post-Secondary Health Care Students. Fees for completing immunization requirements start at $85, however, may increase, depending on your vaccination history, and any new immunizations you choose to acquire.
- 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.
- You are responsible for additional expenses related to your practicum, including pre-practicum requirements and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.