Plumber

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION

Overview

Learn to plan, install and service plumbing systems, fixtures, piping equipment and controls. These piping systems may be used to transport water, waste, gases or hot liquids.

On a typical construction job, you'll:

- study building plans and specifications
- determine the layout for plumbing and other materials
- locate and mark the positions for connections and fixtures
- cut holes through walls and floors to accommodate pipes
- select the type and size of pipe required for a project
- measure, cut, thread, bend, clamp, solvent cement or solder pipe
- assemble and install valves and fittings
- join pipe sections and secure them in position
- test pipe systems for leaks
- install underground storm sanitary and water piping systems.

You may also do residential repair and maintenance work in homes, commercial and institutional structures. You'll provide customer service for renovations or common plumbing problems in houses and multi-home structures.

Certification is required to work in this trade. This means that you must either be a registered apprentice working under the guidance of a certified journeyperson or be a certified journeyperson yourself.

The Alberta plumber apprenticeship program includes Gasfitter - Class B certification. This means plumber apprentices who successfully complete all the requirements for the Plumber program will receive two Alberta Journeyperson certificates, Plumber and Gasfitter - Class B. Apprentices must write both the Plumber and the Gasfitter - Class B interprovincial exams to earn both Red Seal certificates.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Plumbers are skilled tradespeople who like collaborating with others or working independently for a wide range of customers.

If you enjoy working with your hands in various environments and developing specialized skills, you'll do well in this line of work.

To succeed in this trade, you should:

- enjoy solving problems
- be a creative thinker
- have customer service skills
- be adaptable to working in different environments
- have physical stamina and agility
- have mechanical aptitude to accurately estimate and measure sizes and lengths
- be comfortable working independently or in a team environment
- be committed to maintaining safe working conditions.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and technical training periods, you'll be awarded an advanced diploma in addition to journeyperson status by Alberta's Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

This is a Red Seal Endorsed trade – a recognizable standard that allows tradespeople to work across Canada.

Admission requirements

To enter an apprenticeship, you must have the educational qualifications required or recommended education for the trade to which you apply.

Entrance requirements are monitored and set by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Minimum requirements

Successful completion of the following courses:

- English 20-2
- Math 20-3
- Science 10

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests

OR

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Entrance exam.

Recommended requirements

Apprentices with an Alberta High School Diploma that includes the following courses:

- English 30-2
- Math 30-3
- Physics 30 OR Chemistry 30 OR Science 30
- Related career and technology studies (CTS) courses

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
2	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
3	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
4	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
			Total cost:	**$6,454**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Books and Supplies

This is a bring-your-own-device program with standard computer hardware and software requirement. See the specific requirements on our computers and laptops page.

Books or modules, along with other items for classes, are approximately $600 per period.

We recommend you don't purchase books or modules ahead of time as they might be outdated by the time you attend classes, and

they cannot be returned to the Bookstore.

This program requires personal protective equipment (PPE), which may be an additional cost.