Pre-employment Automotive Service Technician

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

If you're looking for an alternative pathway into the automotive repair industry, our 14-week Pre-employment Automotive Service Technician program is your key.

This program provides a condensed and focused curriculum to quickly prepare you for a career in automotive repair.

As a student, you will:

- learn how to perform routine maintenance tasks to keep vehicles running smoothly
- gain the ability to identify common issues in vehicles and perform initial diagnostic procedures to pinpoint problems
- learn the basics of repairing cars and light-duty trucks, setting a solid foundation for more advanced repair work in the future
- get hands-on practice using state-of-the-art tools and equipment
- learn safe working practices and how to use tools and equipment effectively
- gain expertise in wheel alignments, which are essential for vehicle stability and tire wear
- learn about suspension and steering
- learn how to service and repair braking systems
- learn the basics of electrical work in automotive repair.

You'll also have the valuable opportunity to work in an operational shop as an automotive service technician.

Enrolling in our Pre-employment Automotive Service Technician program gives you a strong foundation, hands-on experience, and the skills necessary to kickstart your career.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those working as automotive service technicians tend to be objective, innovative and methodical.

You need:

- good hearing, eyesight and manual dexterity
- mechanical aptitude and interest
- a working knowledge of electricity, electronics and computers
- customer service skills
- a driver's license.

You should enjoy performing tasks requiring precision, working independently and with your hands.

SAIT program pathways

This program aligns with the first period of Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training's (AIT) Automotive Service Technician curriculum.

Graduates are eligible to register as apprentices and challenge the first-period exam.

Once you pass the exam and complete the necessary training hours with an employer, you may register for SAIT's Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship program beginning in period two.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, you'll receive a SAIT Pre-employment Automotive Service Technician certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and completion of the following courses or equivalents:

- English Language Arts 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2, and
- Math 20-1 or Math 20-2 or Math 20-3, and
- one Grade 11 Science.

SAIT accepts high school course equivalents for admission for applicants educated outside of 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 completing the program within 14 weeks. 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	1.0*	$8,355	$525.25	$8,880.25
			Total cost:	**$8,880.25**

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

*Less than one full semester of 16 weeks.

Books and Supplies

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

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.

Find your booklist on the SAIT Bookstore's website. The booklist will be available closer to the program start date. Can't find your program or course? The bookstore didn't receive a textbook list. Contact your program directly to determine if they're still refining course details or if you're in luck; no textbook purchase is required this term.

Although not a requirement, you will have more success finding employment if you hold a driver's licence.

Required personal protective equipment (PPE)

CSA-approved steel-toe boots, safety glasses and coveralls are required on the first day of class.