Pre-employment Cabinetmaker

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION

Overview

Our comprehensive, hands-on Pre-employment Cabinetmaker program is designed for those interested in working in a cabinet or architectural millwork shop.

Over 12 weeks, you'll learn to produce custom-made wood products, interpret diagrams and specifications and create drawings for unique woodworking projects from kitchens to offices.

The program includes:

- first-year cabinetmaker training, providing you with a solid foundation, including how to read and interpret blueprints, safely operate woodworking machinery, and understand the properties of different wood types
- practical skill development, enhancing your craftsmanship and confidence in working with wood components, including measuring, cutting, assembling, and finishing wooden pieces to create furniture and cabinetry
- the safety training and practices paramount in any trade to ensure you can work safely and efficiently.

This program aims to prepare you to enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge necessary to become an apprentice cabinetmaker.

As a graduate, you can challenge the first-year cabinetmaker apprenticeship exam, potentially accelerating your journey toward certification.

This program is ideal for those passionate about woodworking, keen on precise and artistic work, and looking to quickly enter a trade with a high demand for skilled labour.

The Pre-employment Cabinetmaker program offers the training and opportunities to craft a rewarding career.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Cabinetmakers tend to be objective, innovative and methodical.

You need:

- good eyesight to select woods and look for surface imperfections
- hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity
- strength and stamina to lift heavy items
- the ability to visualize a finished product from drawings, blueprints or other specifications.

You should enjoy creating things with your hands and working with high accuracy.

SAIT program pathways

This program aligns with the first period of Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training's (AIT) Cabinetmaker 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 Cabinetmaker apprenticeship program beginning in period two.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of the program, you'll receive a SAIT Pre-Employment Cabinetmaker certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

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

- Math 10C, Math 10-3 or Applied Math 10, and
- English Language Arts 10-1 or English Language Arts 10-2.

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 completing the program within 12 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	0.5	$5,292	$172.50**	$5,464.50
			Total cost:	**$5,464.50**

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

**Students in this program do not qualify for health and dental plans, nor do they pay Saitsa fees.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $1,000 - $1,500 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.

Required personal protective equipment (PPE)

- CSA steel-toe boots
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection - will be provided, but students may choose to bring their own.

Required equipment or tools

- Metric/imperial tape measure (min. 16')
- Marking pencil