Pre-employment Electrician

MACPHAIL SCHOOL OF ENERGY

Overview

Fast-track your career as an electrician with our intensive 12-week, full-time Pre-employment Electrician program.

This course is perfect for those eager to enter the electrical trade but face challenges securing employment.

In this program, you will:

- learn the foundational theories and principles of electrical work that are essential for a first-year electrician apprentice
- develop hands-on skills in basic wiring techniques to ensure you can contribute effectively from day one of your apprenticeship
- receive critical training in safety practices to ensure personal and workplace safety when handling electrical systems
- get a feel for the real-world tasks you will perform on the job through labs and workshops.

Graduate with the confidence and capability to enter directly into an apprenticeship, equipped with practical skills and knowledge. Prepare to challenge the first-year Electrician apprenticeship exam, positioning you to move forward in your career quickly.

Graduates benefit from a high employment rate due to the demand for skilled electricians in various industries. The program is closely aligned with industry needs, ensuring the skills you learn are what employers are looking for.

As an electrician, you'll work in various settings, from residential to commercial and industrial projects. You'll have the opportunity to advance to supervisory positions, project management or run your own contracting businesses.

With dedicated instructors, a supportive learning environment and a focus on employability, you are just twelve weeks away from a new path to the skilled trades.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Electricians tend to be objective, innovative and methodical.

You need:

- communication and reading skills
- an aptitude for math
- mechanical ability
- physical strength and stamina
- the ability to distinguish colours to work with colour-coded wiring
- the ability to plan and organize
- the ability to work in high places
- the ability to get along well with co-workers
- the ability to coach and mentor
- the ability to do precision work
- problem-solving and computer skills.

If you install or maintain equipment in homes or businesses, you should enjoy keeping a neat appearance and dealing with customers.

SAIT program pathways

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

Credentials

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

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

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

- Math 20-1, Math 20-2, or Math 20-3, and
- English Language Arts 20-1 or English Language Arts 20-2, and
- Science 10.

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	$6,435	$172.50**	$6,607.50
			Total cost:	**$6,607.50**

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.

Additional technology requirements

You'll need a SHARP EL-520X calculator, which is recommended by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Required personal protective equipment (PPE)

You'll need CSA-approved steel-toed boots or shoes and one pair of safety glasses.

Required equipment and tools

You'll need a:

- Staedtler electric/electronic symbols 977/116 template
- Staedtler metric scaling ruler with 1:50 scale
- Common electrical hand tools

All of these items will be available for purchase from the SAIT Bookstore.