Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

The 15-week Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician program is designed for those seeking to enter the thriving transport and heavy equipment industry, repairing, maintaining and overhauling transport vehicles and heavy machinery.

With courses developed in collaboration with industry, your training will be relevant and up-to-date.

In this program, you will:

- learn safety practices and proper use of industry-standard tools
- gain entry-level proficiency in hydraulics, pneumatic braking systems, electrical circuits, mechanical skills, and suspension systems
- get hands-on experience in a shop environment supported by theory.

As a graduate, you will be prepared for entry-level roles such as heavy-duty mechanic (off-road), truck and transport mechanic and transport-trailer technician.

Your skills will apply to numerous vehicles and equipment, including, but not limited to, transport trucks and trailers, construction heavy equipment, stationary equipment and off-road vehicles. You'll also have the foundational skills to seek employment and register as an apprentice.

Apply today and propel yourself into an industry that is the backbone of construction and transportation.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those working as heavy equipment technicians need:

- good vision, hearing and sense of smell to diagnose problems
- strength and stamina for working with heavy equipment and in cramped or awkward positions
- mechanical ability
- the ability to work alone or as part of a team
- the ability to think logically
- an interest in all types of machinery and engines, electronics and precision equipment.

You should enjoy doing precision work, solving problems, and working with your hands.

SAIT program pathways

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

Graduates may also receive course credit towards classes in our two-year Transport and Heavy Equipment Technology diploma program.

Credentials

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

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

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

- at least 50% in Math 20-1 or Math 20-2, or 60% in Math 20-3, and
- at least 50% in English Language Arts 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2, and
- at least 50% in 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 in one semester 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	1.0*	$7,125	$525.25	$7,650.25
			Total cost:	**$7,650.25**

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

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Less than one full semester of 16 weeks

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.