Pre-employment Pipetrades

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION

Overview

Our Pre-employment Pipetrades program provides an alternate pathway into the pipe trades industry, covering the foundational skills and theoretical knowledge required for the first period of technical training common to gasfitters, plumbers, and steamfitter-pipefitters.

With additional safety and tool use training, this program is tailored to equip you with the skills to thrive in the pipe trades sector.

In the plumbing trade, you'll learn to:

- plan and install plumbing systems, including fixtures and controls
- service systems that transport water, waste, gases, or hot liquids
- understand plumbing equipment and system design.

In the steamfitter-pipefitter trade, you'll learn:

- to install, maintain, and repair various piping systems
- to understand the different types of piping
- to read and interpret blueprints and specifications for pipelaying.

In the gasfitting trade, you'll:

- learn to set up a range of natural gas and propane equipment from residential to industrial scales
- develop the skills to repair and extend gas mains and install and service connections.

In addition, you will receive comprehensive industry-standard safety training. You'll also learn to identify and use the tools for various pipe trade applications.

This program prepares you for entry-level pipe trades positions and creates a foundation for future specialization.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those in pipe trades tend to be objective, innovative and methodical.

You need:

- strength and stamina
- manual dexterity
- mechanical aptitude
- the ability to read and understand complex instructions.

You should enjoy careful and exacting work with little direction or supervision.

SAIT program pathways

This program aligns with the first period of Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training's (AIT) pipe trades curriculum, which includes Gasfitter, Plumber and Steamfitter-Pipefitter.

Graduates are eligible to register as apprentices and challenge the first-period exam of their preferred trade(s).

Once you pass the exam and complete the necessary training hours with an employer, you may register for SAIT's Gasfitter, Plumber or Steamfitter-Pipefitter apprenticeship programs beginning in period two.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of the program, you'll receive a SAIT Pre-Employment Pipetrades 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	$5,892	$172.50**	$6,064.50
			Total cost:	**$6,064.50**

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 the UPass or 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-approved eye protection
- CSA-approved steel toe boots
- Gloves (standard work gloves of your choice, leather gauntlet style for hot work)