Primary Care Paramedic

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

Our immersive Primary Care Paramedic program is for those seeking to establish a career in pre-hospital emergency care.

Under the guidance of seasoned professionals, this program provides a comprehensive curriculum that equips you with the skills needed to become an integral member of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

As a student, you will:

- acquire a thorough understanding of pre-hospital emergency care
- learn to perform detailed patient evaluations
- learn to interpret various diagnostic tools
- develop the skills to perform critical interventions and treatments
- become proficient in Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS) and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS)
- participate in simulations in our state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Patient Care Simulation and Advanced Ambulance Simulation labs
- obtain real-world experience in hospital, urgent care and ambulance settings under the mentorship of experienced preceptors
- focus on developing the competencies required for effective emergency response and patient care.

As a graduate, you will have the confidence and qualifications to respond to a wide range of medical emergencies as a first responder, providing high-quality patient care in dynamic and challenging environments.

Prepare for a fulfilling career as a Primary Care Paramedic and help meet the demands of modern emergency medical services.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Paramedics tend to be innovative, methodical and objective.

You need:

- a strong desire to help those in need
- effective communication skills
- leadership skills
- sound decision-making and critical-thinking skills
- adaptability
- the ability to work well under stress, maintain professional behaviour and regulate your emotions
- fine motor skills to provide advanced pre-hospital emergency care
- the ability to remain firm, reassuring and efficient in moments of crisis
- the ability to meet the physical demands of the job, including transporting, lifting and positioning patients and equipment
- the ability to work alone and on a team.

All emergency medical personnel should be comfortable assessing injuries and illnesses, performing patient care procedures which may be sensitive, and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) for extended periods. This includes exposure to latex and other disinfectant materials.

Paramedics work extended hours and shift work, including nights and weekends.

You are strongly encouraged to refer to the ALIS website for career, learning, and employment information for emergency medical personnel, the Paramedicine National Occupational Competency Profile and Alberta Health Service's F.A.R.E. Paramedic requirements to ensure you can successfully meet the occupational requirements for the program and profession.

SAIT program pathways

Graduates of this program meet the admission requirements for SAIT's Advanced Care Paramedic program.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

You'll participate in required practicums under the guidance of experienced, on-site practitioners (preceptors) and SAIT instructors, who will mentor and oversee you in clinical settings.

You will be assigned practicum placements with consideration given to your preference of location. However, due to limited availability in Calgary, you might need to travel or relocate outside of the city or province.

The healthcare field has a strong focus on health, wellness, and fitness to practice due to the demanding nature of the work and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. As such, special considerations will not be granted based on individual circumstances or preferences, except those stated as protected grounds when an accommodation has been approved.

If you cannot obtain a tight facial seal while wearing a respiratory mask due to the presence of facial hair and refuse to shave for religious reasons, you will be considered unfit to work as a paramedic by Alberta Health Services (AHS) standards and will not be allowed to participate in practicum or successfully complete the program. Respiratory mask-fit testing is a requirement ahead of participating in your practicum.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our clinical partners, you will be required to provide specific documentation before you can participate in your practicum. Find out what requirements you need for this program.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

Our Primary Care Paramedic program is accredited by Accreditation Canada at the Primary Care Paramedic level and meets the Alberta College of Paramedics core competency requirements.

Graduates are eligible to write the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators registry exam and are required to register with the Alberta College of Paramedics to work in Alberta.

This program is recognized as qualifying for subsidized education by the Canadian Armed Forces for the Medical Technician occupation.

Credentials

Upon successful completion of this program, you will be awarded a SAIT Primary Care Paramedic certificate.

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

All applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency and meet the following requirements or equivalents:

- at least 50% in Math 20-1 or 20-2, and
- at least 50% in English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2, and
- at least 50% in Biology 30 or Science 30
    - SAIT's ANPH 209 course is accepted in-lieu of the Biology 30 or Science 30 requirement, and is available to complete though SAIT's Open Studies program

You also must achieve a mark of at least 50% in the School of Health and Public Safety's Entrance testing process.

You must also prove you have completed an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certificate or a medical sciences-related diploma, degree, or equivalent.

The following qualifications are recognized as equivalent to the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certificate or medical sciences-related diploma or degree:

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with at least one year of experience
- Medical First Responder (MFR) or First Medical Responder (FMR) with International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) provider certification
- Registered Nurse (RN) with at least one year of experience
- Licensed Physician with at least one year of experience

Applicants must be at least 18 years old as of the commencement of the program's second semester.

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 the suggested schedule 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	2.5*	$5,416.50	$2,015	$7,431.50
			Total cost:	**$7,431.50**

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

*.5 indicates a combination of full-time semester(s) and part-time semester(s) in the same academic year. In many cases, students are completing a practicum during their part-time semester. Part-time students are those taking less than nine (9) course credits in a semester. You are not eligible for the UPass during a part-time semester.

International Students

The program total is based on the estimated amount you will pay if you enter this program during the 2026/27 academic year. The program total amount listed on your letter of admission may appear higher. This amount is your maximum tuition guarantee for the program. SAIT will not exceed this maximum, regardless of changes in tuition and fees between academic years.

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	2.5*	$25,530	$2,015	$27,545
			Total cost:	**$27,545**

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

*.5 indicates a combination of full-time semester(s) and part-time semester(s) in the same academic year. In many cases, students are completing a practicum during their part-time semester. Part-time students are those taking less than nine (9) course credits in a semester. You are not eligible for the UPass during a part-time semester.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $4,000 for the duration of the program.

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. An Apple tablet is recommended, as it is required to support certain applications used in the

program, and will support all portable computing device requirements of the program.

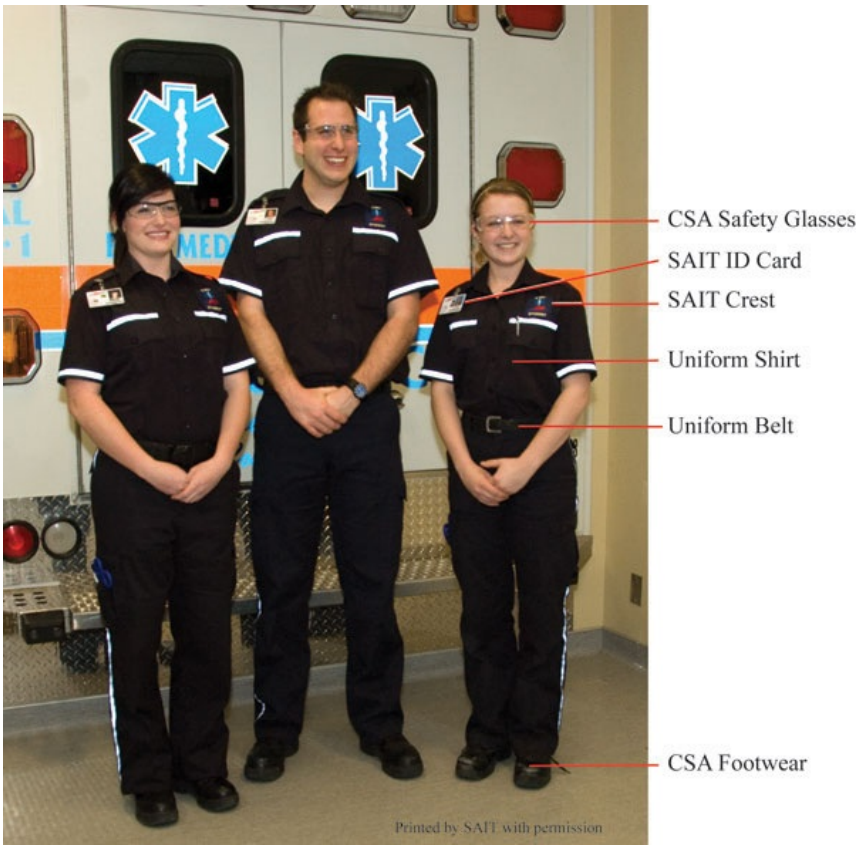
Find your booklist on the SAIT Bookstore's website. Booklists are by semester and made available approximately two weeks before classes begin.

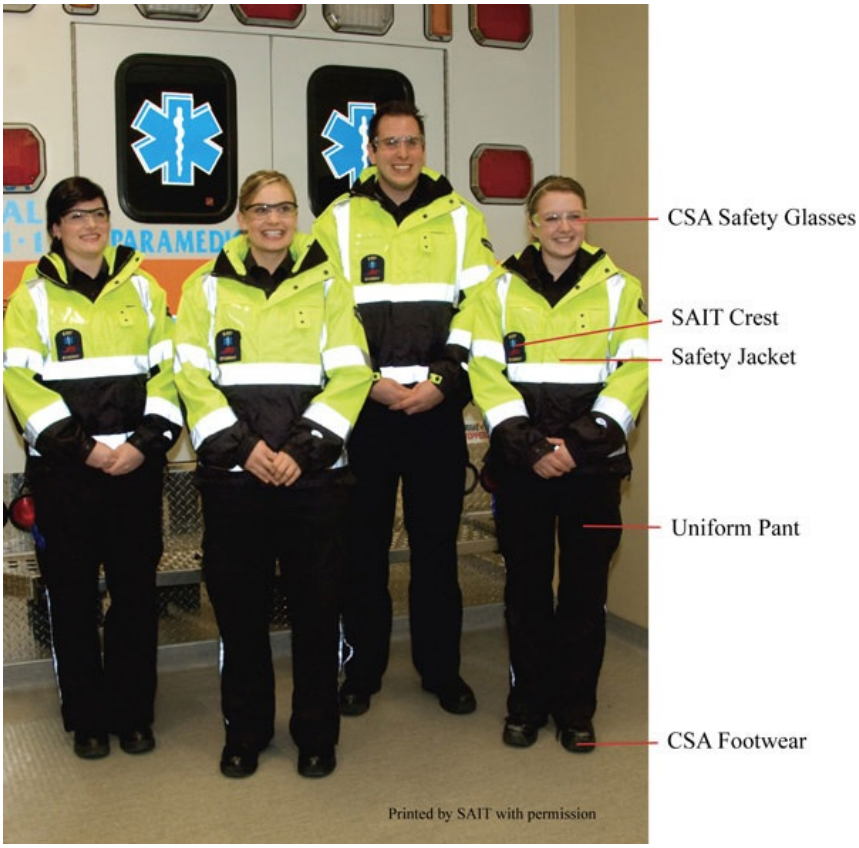
Required personal protective equipment (PPE) and uniform

Uniforms and PPE are to be purchased before orientation day.

Print and take the uniform order form to Trademark Workwear Inc. to order your SAIT uniform. Ensure you order your uniform early.

CSA-approved safety glasses and black steel-toed duty boots may be purchased where available.





Ballistic vests

The SAIT paramedic programs do not require ballistic vests.

Many practitioners can be issued a ballistic vest by their employer as PPE. This is an employee's decision if they want the ballistic vest or not.

As a best practice for scene safety, police deem the situation safe before EMS crews enter, and our students are not first in any situation where this type of PPE is required.

If you wish to purchase your own ballistic vest for use on practicum, you can do so through the AHS-approved vendor Urban Tactical, Winnipeg, which has the required minimum specifications for a ballistic vest.

If you decide to purchase and wear the vest, you must ensure that your SAIT crest and student identification are clearly visible on the vest without compromising its integrity.

If you have a ballistic vest from an employer, you are not allowed to wear that employer's issue as part of the SAIT uniform.

If you choose to wear a ballistic vest during your program, you must purchase a personal ballistic vest.

Ballistic vests are personally fitted, have a limited lifespan, and are not resalable as they do not provide the appropriate protection second-hand. If you choose to wear a personal ballistic vest, you must wear it for every call during your practicum rotations.

Additional fees

- A fee of $75 per semester is associated with the CompTracker application used in this program.
- A fee is associated with obtaining a police information check, including a vulnerable sector check, payable to the police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
- The School of Health and Public Safety strongly recommends that students meet Alberta Health Services' Standard for Immunization of Post-Secondary Health Care Students. Fees for completing immunization requirements start at $85, however, may increase, depending on your vaccination history, and any new immunizations you choose to acquire.
- A fee of approximately $50 to $100 is associated with an electronic student permit checking submission, which is required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.
- You are responsible for additional expenses related to your practicum, including pre-practicum requirements and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.
- There is a fee for the Alberta College of Paramedics (ACP) provincial exam and a registration fee of $475. Annual renewal fees are approximately $425.

- A Class 4 Driver's license may be required for employment. We recommend you review the Alberta government information for requirements and begin the process while in the program.