



Primary Care Paramedic

Train in all aspects of pre-hospital emergency care, including patient assessment and treatment of medical and traumatic emergencies, for a career in emergency medical services.

The Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program provides education and training for pre-hospital care professionals, preparing graduates to work within a multi-disciplinary healthcare team. This program is taught by experienced practitioners and covers all aspects of pre-hospital emergency care.

Areas of study include patient assessment, diagnostics, critical interventions, and treatment, including Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) assistance.

This program is competency-based and provides applied theory as well as hands-on learning through high-fidelity human patient simulation education in the Centre for Advanced Patient Care Simulation as well as during practicum rotations. Working under the direct supervision of a preceptor, practicums occur in both hospital or urgent care and ambulance settings.

Completion of the program is a requirement for continuing into the [Advanced Care Paramedic](#) program.

Is this the right fit for me?

Students who experience success in this program and profession:

- have higher secondary and/or post-secondary grades
- possess effective communication skills in both written and spoken English
- are self-directed, detail-oriented, highly motivated, and well organized
- are disciplined for learning in the classroom, online, and in professional settings, as well as through self-study required of all courses
- enjoy working in a team environment
- anticipate the emotional toll that the role can take on the paramedic profession, and actively pursue strategies to bolster personal resilience and preserve mental health

Students are strongly encouraged to refer to the [Paramedicine National Occupational Competency Profile](#) and [Alberta Health Service's F.A.R.E.- Paramedic](#) requirements to ensure that they are able to successfully demonstrate the functional ability skills required to achieve all the competency-based objectives and bona fide occupational requirements for the program and profession.

Some examples include:

- Lift a stretcher with a 95.5 kg (210 lbs) patient with a partner from a lower level to the load position and back down
- Lift and carry a long spine board with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascend and descend 10 stairs with a partner
- Push a stair chair 10 m with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascend and descend 20 stairs with a partner
- Lift a bilateral side carry of 9 kg (20 lbs) of weight in each hand
- Front carry 18 kg (40 lbs)
- Repetitively kneel, crouch, bend, reach, carry, push and pull
- Perform CPR for 2 min

Accreditation

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

Credential

After successfully completing this program, graduates will receive a SAIT Primary Care Paramedic certificate. All graduates are eligible and required to register with the Alberta College of Paramedics to work in Alberta as a PCP.

Admission requirements

Application dates

- **Fall 2022 start:** applications are accepted from Oct 6, 2021, to March 1, 2022.
 - **Please note:** Access to the PCP Profession Specific Entrance Assessment will close end of day March 18, 2022.

*This program does not accept international students

Program requirements

At least 50% in each of the following courses or their equivalents:

- Math 20-1 or Math 20-2 or Pure Math 20 or Applied Math 20
- English Language Arts 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2
- Biology 30 or Science 30. *

AND,

- Proof of completion of an [Emergency Medical Responder](#) (EMR) certificate or a medical sciences-related diploma or degree or [equivalent](#).

Note: Students must be 18 years old by Jan. 1 (second semester of the program).

*ANPH 209 (Anatomy and Physiology) can be used in place of the Biology 30 or Science 30 requirement. This course is available through [Open Studies](#).

All applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) prior to admission, including students educated in Canada.

SAIT accepts [high school course equivalents](#) for admission. If you don't meet the requirements, consider [Academic Upgrading](#).

SAIT evaluates international documents for admissions. After you've applied, consider our [international document assessment](#) service if your education is from outside of Canada.

Direct entry: four-step process

Step 1: Read the program information to see the qualities needed for student success.

Step 2: Ensure that you meet all of the admission requirements listed above.

Step 3: [Apply](#) to the Primary Care Paramedic program and submit your [transcripts and/or anticipated final grades](#) prior to the application close date.

- Admission is offered on a first-qualified, first offered basis, until the program is full.

Step 4: Log in to [mySAIT.ca](#) to check your admission status. Find out how to monitor your [application status](#).

Failure to meet anticipated final grades for the admission pre-requisites will result in offers being rescinded.

Communication during admission

Email is the primary source of communication during the admission process. Ensure your personal email account is managed appropriately to receive our emails, files and communications.

We recommend you add hps.info@sait.ca domain to your safe senders' list or you risk missing critical email messages.

Paramedicine National Competency profile

Students are strongly encouraged to refer to the Paramedicine National Competency Profile and Alberta Health Services' F.A.R.E Paramedic requirements to ensure that they are able to successfully demonstrate the skills required to achieve all the competency-based objectives and bona fide occupational requirements for the program/profession.

Some examples include:

- lift a stretcher with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) patient with a partner from a lower level to the load position and back down
- lifting and carrying a long spine board with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascending and descending 10 stairs with a partner
- push a stair chair 10 m with 95.5 kg (210 lbs) and ascend and descend 20 stairs with a partner
- able to lift a bilateral side carry of 9 kg (20 lbs) of weight in each hand
- able to front carry of 18 kg (40 lbs)
- able to repetitively kneel, crouch, bend, reach, carry, push and pull

- able to perform CPR for two mins.

Practicum requirements

The [School of Health and Public Safety](#) has many practica partners located within Alberta and across Canada. Practicum placements in Calgary are limited and students may be required to relocate outside of Calgary for practicum. Due to limited practicum spots for the paramedicine programs provincially, some of the practica may not end until August.

Successful candidates will be informed of the allocation of their practicum placement by the program. There is no guarantee that students will be placed at their desired practicum location. Special considerations of personal circumstances will not be given in regards to assigning practicum placements. Students will be responsible for fees associated with practica such as entrance requirements, relocation and travel costs.

In compliance with the practica agreements with our clinical partners, successful candidates will be requested to provide proof of the following requirements:

- current Heart and Stroke Foundation BLS Provider course
- updated immunization records
- security clearance - Police Information Check including Vulnerable Sector Check
- N95 respiratory mask fitting
- health and wellness status

Please Note: If a practicum student cannot obtain a tight facial seal due to the presence of facial hair and has refused to shave for religious reasons, the PCP practicum student is considered unfit by AHS standards and will not be allowed on an ambulance practicum.

As practicum is an essential component to graduate from the program, the student will not be able to successfully complete the Primary Care Paramedic program.

[Learn more](#)

Costs 2022/23

Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$135

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	3	\$4,657.50	\$1,065	\$698.50	\$6,421

*Maximum fee. Actual fees may be less and are based on the number of credits a student takes per semester and whether they opt-out of health and dental benefits.

SAIT fees

- Campus athletic and recreation fee: \$245
- Universal transit pass (Upass): \$320
- Student support fee: \$250
- Student technology fee: \$250

Saitsa fees

Student Association fee

- Maximum: \$436.50

This is the maximum amount the student will pay. Actual fees may be less and are based on the number of credits the students take per semester.

Health and dental fees

- Health plan: \$127
- Dental plan: \$135

Students with existing health and/or dental plans can opt-out. Please refer to [Saitsa's website](#) for information.

Books and supplies*

Books and supplies cost approximately \$1,900 for the program.

Students are responsible for any additional expenses related to their practicum, including pre-practicum requirements as outlined by the program, and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.

For an estimate of the costs associated with purchasing a computer that meets the program's hardware and software requirements, see our [computers and laptops page](#).

Additional fees

- There is a \$75 CompTracker user fee per semester.
- There is a fee for the Alberta College of Paramedics (ACP) provincial exam and an annual registration fee. ACP annual registration fees are approximately \$425 (the initial registration fee is approximately \$475).
- There is a fee associated with obtaining a Police Information Check including a Vulnerable Sector Check and is payable to the Police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Students must have their immunizations reviewed by the SAIT Health Clinic. There is a \$75 charge to review vaccine history. Any vaccines to be administered will result in additional charges.
- There is a fee, approximately \$50-\$100, associated with an Electronic Student Permit Checking submission which is required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.

Learn more about [tuition and financial aid](#).

*Tuition, fees, books and supply costs are subject to change.