Railway Conductor

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

Designed to equip you with the specialized skills to manage railway vehicles, our 12-week program Railway Conductor is your ticket to the rapidly expanding railway operations sector.

As a student, you will:

- learn the critical roles of a train conductor, including the safe and efficient movement of rail cars
- learn how to assemble trains in the correct order, ensuring the cargo is organized according to its destination and the operational requirements of the railway
- gain the skills to safely change the path of a railcar from one track to another, a process essential for organizing and directing rail traffic
- learn how to apply your skills in a real-world setting with our private mini rail yard, featuring actual tracks and rail cars
- master the Canadian Railway Operating Rules (CROR) and related safety systems to ensure compliance and secure operations
- learn about the mechanical aspects of rail cars, including air brake systems and communication systems
- learn effective communication skills.

This course includes on-campus classes, labs, and field trips to nearby industrial sites. Get training from industry professionals with extensive field experience and a passion for training the next generation.

With the increasing need for rail transport of goods, the railway industry is on an upward trajectory, promising a stable and growing field for employment.

Position yourself in a market that values job-ready individuals, especially as current workforce demographics signal high retirement rates and the need for new talent.

The program paves the way for career growth, with prospects to move into various roles within the railway sector, such as engineer, dispatch, trainer and management.

If you're ready to play a crucial role in the movement of goods across the country and beyond, whether for Canadian National Railway, Canadian Pacific or another, our Railway Conductor program is the ideal start. Enroll today and get on track for a career that moves you forward.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

As a railway conductor, you need:

- strong safety awareness
- effective communication skills, including proficiency in verbal and written English
- solid planning and decision-making abilities
- physical fitness and ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- capability to lift heavy objects (up to 85 lbs)
- responsibility to understand and meet medical and physical standards set by rail companies.

You will require flexibility to work at any time of day as railways operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

To gain employment, you may need to pass medical exams, including vision, hearing and drug tests, and pass a security screening.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, you'll receive a SAIT Railway Conductor 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, 20-2 or 20-3, and
- at least 50% in Grade 12 English.

SAIT accepts high school course equivalents for admission for applicants educated outside of Alberta.

In alignment with industry expectations, applicants to the Rail Conductor program require a class 5 drivers license.

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	1	$10,935	$1,083.25	$12,018.25
			Total cost:	**$12,018.25**

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

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	1	$19,143	$1,083.25	$20,226.25
			Total cost:	**$20,226.25**

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

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately $600.

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)

The industry-approved PPE you'll need will be discussed during your first few days of classes, including:

- CSA-approved hard hat
- safety-toed footwear
- reflective vest
- safety glasses
- work gloves.