



Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant

Medical advances permit a growing number of children and adults to live successfully with disabilities. Clients who have experienced an injury or a health condition that has impacted their ability to function in day-to-day life can maximize their physical, mental, and social abilities through rehabilitation.

Under the supervision of an occupational therapist (OT) or physiotherapist, therapist assistants work with clients with the goal of facilitating their active participation in our society. Therapist assistants also support facility administration by managing therapeutic supplies and maintaining equipment.

You can train to be a rehabilitation therapy assistant at SAIT and gain knowledge in occupational and physical therapy to become a skilled assistant, with a curriculum that meets and exceeds the essential competencies required for support personnel for both OT and physiotherapist professions.

This program addresses key concepts of rehabilitation and healthcare delivery. You'll have the opportunity to go on observational visits to clinical settings to help you integrate your knowledge of normal physical and psychological function with basic therapeutic skills, and study advanced rehabilitation concepts, common health conditions, and therapeutic skills used in occupational therapy and physical therapy. You'll also develop advanced therapeutic skills and learn about complex health conditions. This program includes two practicum rotations during which you'll apply and further refine your classroom and laboratory learning.

Is this the right fit for me?

Students who experience success in this program and profession:

- have at least basic computer skills
- possess effective communication skills in both written and spoken English
- are physically fit and able to lift a minimum weight of 50 pounds
- have higher secondary or post-secondary grades
- are self-directed, highly motivated, detail-oriented and well-organized
- are disciplined for learning in the classroom, online, and clinical settings, as well as through self-study required of all courses
- are professional and flexible
- enjoy working in a team environment and in diverse settings
- above all, enjoy relating to others.
- previous experience working or volunteering in a health or wellness-related field is an asset.

Accreditation

The Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant Program at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) has been accredited by the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP) in collaboration with Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT). The status of Accreditation was awarded to the program on April 30, 2022 for the period until April 30, 2028.

For more information please contact the [Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program](#), Suite 26, 509 Commissioners Road West, London, Ontario, N6J 1Y5, 226.636.0632, www.otapta.ca.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, graduates will receive a SAIT Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant diploma with both the occupational therapist assistant (OTA) and the physical therapist assistant (PTA) discipline designations.

Admission requirements

Application dates

- **Fall 2022 start:** applications are accepted Oct. 6, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Program requirements

Created Date: 08/08/22

<https://www.sait.ca/programs-and-courses/diplomas/rehabilitation-therapy-assistant>

Completion of the following courses or equivalents with an overall average of at least 60%:

- English Language Arts 30-1,
- Biology 30,
- Chemistry 20 or Science 20.
- 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. SAIT may also accept courses completed at certain international post-secondary institutions. Find more information [here](#).

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 Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant and [submit your transcripts and/or anticipated final grades](#).

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

Step 4: Find out how to monitor your application status [after you apply](#).

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.

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 are frequently required to relocate outside of Calgary for practicum.

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 practicum 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 Basic Life Support/Level (C) CPR
- Updated immunization records
- Security clearance - Police Information Check including Vulnerable Sector Check
- N95 respiratory mask fitting
- Health and wellness status

[Learn more](#)

Costs 2022/23

Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$106

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	3	\$3,816	\$916	\$553	\$5,285
2	2	\$2,544	\$916	\$553	\$4,013

*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: \$196
- Universal transit pass (Upass): \$320
- Student support fee: \$200
- Student technology fee: \$200

Saitsa fees

Student Association fee

- Maximum: \$291

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 are approximately \$2,500 per full-time year.

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

- Students pay a mandatory \$75 Comp Tracker fee per term.
- There is a fee associated with obtaining a police information check including Vulnerable Sector Check and is payable to the Police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- 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.
- CPR certification must be completed yearly. Cost associated with CPR training are the responsibility of the student.

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

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