



Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

Our Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant program provides comprehensive training for those who seek to support individuals with disabilities and functional impairments. As medical advancements break down accessibility barriers, the demand for skilled therapy assistants grows.

In this program, you will:

- learn under the guidance of experienced occupational therapists and physiotherapists
- acquire essential competencies that exceed the national standards for occupational therapy and physiotherapy assistants
- learn core rehabilitation and healthcare delivery concepts and skills
- participate in observational clinical visits to witness the practical application of therapeutic skills
- study advanced rehabilitation concepts, common health conditions, and therapeutic methods
- develop a deep understanding of complex health conditions and advanced therapeutic techniques
- complete three practicum rotations to apply and refine your skills in real-world settings.

We'll equip you with the theoretical knowledge to perform the role of an occupational therapist and ensure you have the practical skills to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those requiring rehabilitation therapy.

As a graduate, you will be prepared to manage therapeutic supplies and equipment effectively within healthcare facilities and help your clients improve their quality of life.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Those in rehabilitation therapy tend to be methodical, social and objective.

You need:

- empathy
- patience
- the ability to work well under stress, maintain professional behaviour and regulate your emotions
- flexibility
- effective communication skills
- interpersonal skills
- organizational skills and attention to detail
- physical strength and stamina, including the ability to use your hands, wrists and arms for prolonged periods
- manual dexterity
- the ability to encourage patient confidence and participation
- the ability to work independently and as part of a team.

You may need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for long periods, which includes exposure to latex and disinfection materials. You must be comfortable performing patient care procedures in very close proximity to your clients.

Some positions will require extended work 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 [occupational therapy assistants](#) and [physical therapy assistants](#) to ensure you can successfully meet the occupational requirements for the program and profession.

Professional designations and certifications

This program is 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).

Graduates will earn their Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) designations.

Credentials

After successfully completing this program, you'll be awarded a SAIT Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant diploma.

Practicum, Co-op and Work Integrated Learning

You'll complete required practicum rotations in a clinical facility where you will work under the supervision of a licensed physiotherapist or occupational therapist.

You will be assigned practicum placements with consideration given to your preference of location. However, due to limited availability in Calgary, it might be necessary for you to travel or relocate outside the city. Special considerations will not be accommodated.

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.](#)

International students must also complete their [Immigration Medical Exam \(IME\)](#) and obtain a [co-op work permit](#) to attend this practicum. For more information, please contact the [International Centre](#).

Admission requirements

Applicants educated in Canada

Applicants must demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) and meet the following requirements or equivalents with an overall average of at least 60%:

- English Language Arts 30-1, and
- Biology 30, and
- Chemistry 20 or Science 20
- [MEDT 211 \(SAIT course\)](#)

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

2024/25 tuition and fees

The following estimated costs are effective as of July 1, 2024.

Domestic Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	3	\$4,572	\$2,072*	\$6,644
2	2	\$3,048	\$1,608	\$4,656
Total cost:				\$11,300

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

*You will be ineligible for the UPass during the third semester of your first year.

International Students

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per year
1	3	\$19,440	\$2,072*	\$21,512
2	2	\$12,960	\$1,608	\$14,568
Total cost:				\$36,080

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

*You will be ineligible for the UPass during the third semester of your first year.

Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are approximately \$2,500 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](#).

A portable personal computing device is required. An Apple or Android laptop or tablet is preferred. Phones are not suitable.

Find your booklist on the [SAIT Bookstore's](#) website. Booklists are created by semester and available approximately two weeks before classes begin.

Required personal protective equipment (PPE)

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

Additional fees

- 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).
- You must have your immunizations reviewed by the SAIT Health Clinic. There is a \$75 charge to review vaccine history. Any vaccines you need to be administered will result in additional charges.
- A fee of approximately \$50 to \$100 is associated with an electronic student permit checking submission required for clinical practicum placements, payable to Synergy Gateway through the Verified software platform.
- CPRS 001 BLS Provider (Level C) CPR annual updates are required. All CPR courses must be from the Heart and Stroke Foundation.
- A fee is associated with the CompTracker application used in this program.
- You are responsible for additional expenses related to your practicum, including pre-practicum requirements and relocation costs to practicum sites outside of Calgary.