

Mandate Statement

This mandate statement has been developed by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in consultation with Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education pursuant to Section 103 of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* (PSLA).

1. Type of Institution, Sector, and Governance

The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology is a board-governed public post-secondary institution operating in Alberta as a polytechnic institution under the authority of the PSLA.

2. Outcomes

Alberta's knowledge-based economy requires innovative, well-educated, skilled and adaptable citizens. As a polytechnic institution that is recognized nationally and that works alongside colleges and universities in Alberta to develop a more diversified and resilient economy, SAIT is a leader in workforce development that enhances Alberta's economic growth and prosperity. SAIT graduates are engaged, global citizens who have the knowledge, skills and competencies to function in an interconnected world while contributing to the economic, social, and environmental health and sustainability of the communities in which they live.

SAIT provides students with the skills and knowledge required to serve the employment needs of key industry sectors: agriculture, energy, business, communication, construction, health and public safety, hospitality, information technologies, logistics and distribution, manufacturing and automation, media, tourism and transportation. SAIT produces work-ready graduates needed by employers today, and partners with industry and government to identify emerging employment trends and the skills needed for a prosperous future.

3. Clients/Students

SAIT attracts a diverse group of students seeking applied education and training, with immediate employment prospects upon graduation and continued opportunities for lifelong learning. SAIT serves high school graduates preparing for entry-level careers in key industry sectors, youth, adult learners changing or enhancing their careers, professional studies and continuing education students, international students, and life-long learners.

4. Geographic Service Area and Type of Delivery

SAIT primarily serves the Southern Alberta region, with its campuses located throughout Calgary. However, it attracts students from across the province, nationally, and internationally.

SAIT delivers applied education that focuses on academic excellence and student support. SAIT achieves academic excellence through its emphasis on teaching and curriculum excellence, market responsiveness, resource management, stakeholder engagement and applied research. SAIT is committed to building and nurturing strong business, industry, and community partnerships that contribute to academic excellence. Programs facilitate learning through face-to-face, online and blended delivery methodologies to meet student needs. SAIT uses technology to enhance the learning experience and has a long history as a leader in distance learning technologies.

SAIT supports students through a broad variety of services and facilities. These include counselling and accessibility services, prior learning assessment and recognition, initiatives supporting students transitioning into the institution, diversity and inclusion initiatives, wellness and mental health services, and learning skills services. SAIT provides support for Indigenous students through the Chinook Lodge Resource Centre, and for international students through the International Student Centre.

SAIT is very much a part of the fabric of southern Alberta, engaged in numerous initiatives which benefit our students and strengthen the community. SAIT partners with many organizations on initiatives that open doors to education and create new learning opportunities in the community. Learning outcomes are enhanced as students hone their skills in the real world, while providing valuable supports to often-vulnerable populations in the community. SAIT also engages with youth in many ways, introducing them to the world of possibilities accessed through a polytechnic post-secondary education.

5. Program Mandates and Credentials Offering

SAIT provides a wide array of programming and credential offerings that serve the employment needs of key industry sectors. Credit offerings include academic upgrading, trades programs, pre-employment certificates linked to trades programs, certificates, diplomas, post-diploma certificates, post-bachelor certificates, and bachelor degrees. SAIT also offers non-credit courses and programs in key industry sectors, including customized training and workforce development for both domestic and international corporate clients.

6. Special Program Areas/Areas of Specialization

SAIT offers a variety of programming that is distinctive to SAIT, including trades programming and bachelor degree programs in specific areas of expertise such as business administration, construction project management, and hospitality and tourism management. As a global educator, SAIT is best known for its excellence in energy training.

7. System Collaboration and Partnerships

SAIT works collaboratively with other learning providers—provincially, nationally, and internationally—to develop and deliver programming, and is an active and supportive member of an Alberta-wide learning community. This is especially apparent as SAIT collaborates across Alberta with most post-secondary institutions and other institutions on program pathways and delivery, procurement and other common efforts to support student success and build system efficiency. SAIT also supports regional access to polytechnic education. Working closely with First Nation communities, SAIT provides customized skills-based training that supports those communities' economic development and that leads to long-term employment opportunities and a sustainable future.

8. Research and Scholarly Activities

SAIT supports Alberta's economic diversification and growth through solutions-focused research that leads to the transformation of well-established industries and the emergence of new ones. SAIT's applied research strengths are closely aligned with Alberta's goals of economic diversification and job creation, environmental stewardship and climate leadership, and effective resource management.

Through its applied research activities, SAIT advances technology, transfers innovation into the classroom, and provides the highly-qualified, skilled personnel that industry requires. SAIT provides innovation services to industry partners, bringing students, researchers and faculty together to solve real-world technology and process-innovation challenges. SAIT also develops emerging areas of research that align with the Alberta government's research and innovation frameworks, spanning the areas of industrial and

waste water, artificial intelligence, carbon reduction technologies, building efficiency, oil and gas process improvement technologies, and emissions baselining and management.

Applied research is one element of SAIT’s engagement in scholarly activity initiatives, and in SAIT’s culture of scholarly activity. At SAIT, scholarly activity improves program quality and the quality of the student experience by informing professional practice, contributing to the state-of-practice within a field, impacting the broader external environment, and/or furthering the scholarship of teaching and learning.

9. System Mandate

With its vision of global leadership in applied education, SAIT has a long history of working with businesses, governments, and post-secondary institutions around the world. SAIT’s global strategy rests on three key pillars: providing the SAIT community with global perspectives through study-abroad and teaching-abroad activities; attracting students from around the world to study at SAIT, and partnering with industry, government and other institutions to expand institutional capacity-building and workforce nationalization development in other countries. SAIT looks outward, with the goal of bringing SAIT to the world—and bringing the world to SAIT.

Approved by Minister of Advanced Education

Approval Date: [insert date]