

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Mandate

The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) is a public, board-governed technical institute, operating as a Polytechnical Institution under the authority of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* of Alberta.

SAIT provides learners with the skills and knowledge required to serve the employment needs of key industry sectors: energy, business, communication, construction, health, information technologies, manufacturing and automation, media, public service and safety, tourism and transportation. It offers academic upgrading, pre-employment, apprenticeship, certificate, and diploma programs, as well as applied degree and baccalaureate degree programs in specified areas. 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. SAIT's courses and programs may lead directly to both career employment and educational laddering opportunities.

SAIT primarily serves the Southern Alberta region, and also attracts students from across the province, nationally, and internationally. By advancing the highest quality of learning and teaching, SAIT attracts a diverse group of students seeking practical, skills-oriented education and training, with immediate employment prospects upon graduation and continued opportunities for lifelong learning. As a global educator, SAIT is best known for excellence in energy training.

SAIT is committed to providing a learner-centered environment that embodies the principles set out in the Campus Alberta framework. These principles include accessibility, innovation, and responsiveness. SAIT is also committed to working collaboratively with other learning providers and stakeholders, and to being an active and supportive member of an Alberta-wide learning community.

The philosophical and practical emphasis at SAIT is on providing a high-quality student experience, focused on academic excellence and student support. SAIT achieves this through its emphasis on teaching excellence, curriculum excellence, market responsiveness, resource management and stakeholder engagement. SAIT is committed to building and nurturing strong business and industry partnerships that contribute to academic excellence. Programs facilitate learning through face-to-face, online and blended delivery methodologies to meet the needs of learners. SAIT uses technology to enhance the learning experience and has a long history as a leader in distance learning technologies.

SAIT also achieves academic excellence by working in partnership with industry on applied research. Through its applied research activities, SAIT advances technology, transfers innovation into the classroom, and provides the highly-qualified, skilled personnel that industry requires.

SAIT focuses on student support and enhances the student experience by providing students with a variety of services and facilities. These include counselling and disability services, prior learning assessment and recognition, and learning skills services. Students also have access to a wide range of services and facilities through the Wellness Centre. In addition, SAIT provides support for Aboriginal students and international students through Chinook Lodge and the International Student Centre.

Alberta's knowledge-based economy requires innovative, well-educated, skilled and adaptable citizens. As a nationally recognized Polytechnical Institution, SAIT is a leader in workforce development that enhances Alberta's economic growth and prosperity. SAIT graduates have the knowledge and skills to function in a global, interconnected world while contributing to the economic, social, and environmental health and sustainability of the communities in which they live.

*Approved by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology,
June 3, 2010.*