Nuclear Medicine Technology

Program Overview

- 22-Month Diploma
- Fall Start

Nuclear medicine uses radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive drugs) and specialized equipment to help diagnose and treat disease. In the Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT) program students are trained as nuclear medicine technologists to be prepared to work with patients and medical staff in a clinical nuclear medicine setting.

Areas of Study

- Anatomy and physiology
- Computed tomography
- Nuclear medicine procedures
- Patient communication and management
- Phlebotomy and intravenous injections
- Professional practice
- Radiation physics and instrumentation
- Radiation safety
- Radiopharmacy
- Research

SAIT Learning Experience

In the first year of the program, September to June, students will complete studies on campus. Delivery of materials is a combination of classroom, lab and online course work.

The second year of the NMT program, September to August, is a clinical placement at a sponsoring health region. Students complete online courses concurrently with clinical practicum placements.

The program delivery is very intensive. To be successful students must be prepared to attend 30 hours per week of classroom activities and spend approximately 20 hours per week outside of class studying.

Admission Requirements

Academic prerequisites for this program require a minimum of 60% in each:

- English Language Arts 30-1*
- Pure Math 30, Math 30-1 or at least 70% in Math 30-2
- Chemistry 30
- Plus one of the following: Biology 30, Physics 30, or Math 31

English Proficiency: All applicants to SAIT must also demonstrate English Language Proficiency prior to admission, including students educated in Canada. For more information, contact English Language Foundations at 403.210.4045.

Check the Alberta Transfer Guide at acat.gov.ab.ca for post-secondary equivalency.

Additional Requirements

SAIT health programs are competitive and the minimum educational requirements may not be sufficient for admission. High-demand programs may evaluate applicants on their understanding of the profession and through personal interviews.

- Health care practitioners are detail oriented in the care they provide, utilize critical thinking in practice, are eager, persevere and enjoy working in a team environment.
- Students with higher secondary or post-secondary marks usually experience greater success in SAIT programs.

SAIT

School of Health and Public Safety

- Basic to intermediate computer skills are necessary for this field. An acceptable computer skill level would include the ability to use word processing, spreadsheets and communication software. Educational interaction in this program depends on these computer skills. It is the student's responsibility to ensure adequacy of these skills prior to the program admission.
- Students who experience success in this program have effective communication skills in English.
- Students who experience success in the program have the following characteristics:
  - Ability to handle unpleasant situations
  - Capability of lifting heavy objects and patients
  - Standing for extended periods of time
  - Working in difficult physical positions
  - Good hand and finger dexterity and stamina
  - Strong vision and hearing
- Individuals with previous chronic or repetitive strain injuries have experienced re-injury or aggravation of these conditions in this program and/or as a technologist.
- The NMT program will be evaluating student competency and performance using a competency tracking system called CompTracker. Students require a tablet (Apple or Android) to support the CompTracker system. The tablet only needs wifi ability and the size is at the discretion of the student. Keyboards are advisable but not mandatory.
- Successful applicants must meet additional requirements prior to practicum, such as current CPR training, updated immunizations, respiratory mask fit testing, and a police information check including vulnerable sector check as required by law at fieldwork/practicum sites.
- During the program you will be expected to serve as a volunteer patient and have learning exercises performed on you by an instructor or by other students in the Nuclear Medicine Technology program.
- As a student and while working as a nuclear medicine technologist you will be required to work with individuals of all genders and sexual orientations, cultures, ages, religions and economic status.
- Due to the demanding nature of the work in the health care field and Occupational Health and Safety requirements, the health care field has a strong focus on health and wellness. Students with a medical condition or disability that may impact them in a practicum setting are strongly advised to discuss concerns with the program academic chair and/or SAIT Accessibility Services as soon as possible upon acceptance into the program.

Credentials and Careers

Graduates receive a SAIT Nuclear Medicine Technology diploma.

Graduates are eligible to access the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) certification exam which can lead to registration and employment as registered technologists in Canada. Access to the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) exam (American) is also available.

Graduates find work as nuclear medicine technologists in hospitals, community radiology clinics, research, and teaching institutions. In order to find employment, many graduates must relocate across Canada or to the United States.

Visit alis.alberta.ca to obtain an Occupational Profile.

Financial Matters

Tuition, including SAIT fees and Student Association fees, is currently $6,941 for year 1 and $5,792 for year 2. The cost of tuition and fees at SAIT vary by program and may increase year to year. Please see the official fee table online at sait.ca/fees for the most up to date program fees.

Additional expenses to consider:

- Books, supplies and uniform at approximately $2,600 in the first year and $1,200 in the second year.
- CPRS-212 BLS Provider (Level C) CPR. Annual update required (CPRS-222 BLS Provider Renewal (Level C) CPR) and must be valid through practicum. All CPR courses must be from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Call SAIT Life Support Training at 403.210.4009 for further information.

- Students in this program will require access to a personal computer, computer headset (including microphone), printer and the Internet to facilitate completion of required courses online.
- The cost for a police information check including vulnerable sector check, which is a requirement for practicum, is $40 or more.
- In the event that fieldwork/practicum is located outside of Calgary, students are responsible for any fees or relocation costs incurred during their practicum.
- Other daily expenses may include photocopies, on-campus locker rentals, and necessary personal equipment for your area of study and future profession.
- Also, memberships in certain professional associations are required (current mandatory student registration fee to the Alberta College of Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Technologists is approximately $100).
- Certification exams following study to obtain credentials for working in the profession can add to costs (currently approximately $840 to write the CAMRT certification exam with additional $150 exam administration fee and approximately $175 to write the NMTCB exam).
- Students require a tablet (Apple or Android) to support the CompTracker system. There is a $75 CompTracker user fee per semester.
- Moving away from home can easily raise the annual cost of attending SAIT. The rising cost of living in Calgary will add significantly to tuition and fees.

Information on student loans is available at sait.ca and studentaid.alberta.ca.

Scholarship and Bursary information is available at alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships and sait.ca.

Transfer Options

To transfer to other post-secondary institutes see sait.ca/transferoptions.

For additional information, check the Online Alberta Transfer Guide at acat.gov.ab.ca.

Application Procedures and Process

October 18: Applications to SAIT begin. Application forms must be completed and submitted online, with a non-refundable application fee.

Interprovincial applicants – Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Seven seats are reserved for Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents. SAIT chooses this number based on the number of fieldwork/practicum sites available and in consultation with local providers. Interprovincial students complete year 1 of the program on campus at SAIT and year 2 in their province of residence.

This program typically has more applications than seats. Meeting the admission requirements is the first step in the selection process. However, students may also be required to meet additional criteria in order to gain admission to the program.

Details on the in-depth selection process can be found at sait.ca.

Accreditation

The Nuclear Medicine Technology program delivered by SAIT is accredited by the Canadian Medical Association.

Program Outline

For complete course descriptions, visit sait.ca.

Contact

Phone: 403.284.8500
Email: hps.info@sait.ca
Facebook: facebook.com/saithps
Take the 'Find Your Fit' quiz at findyourfit.ca.