

Supporting Successful Movement into Skilled Trade Careers

Career Counsellors & Practitioners

Paul Bohnert & Lynda Kope

April 28, 2026



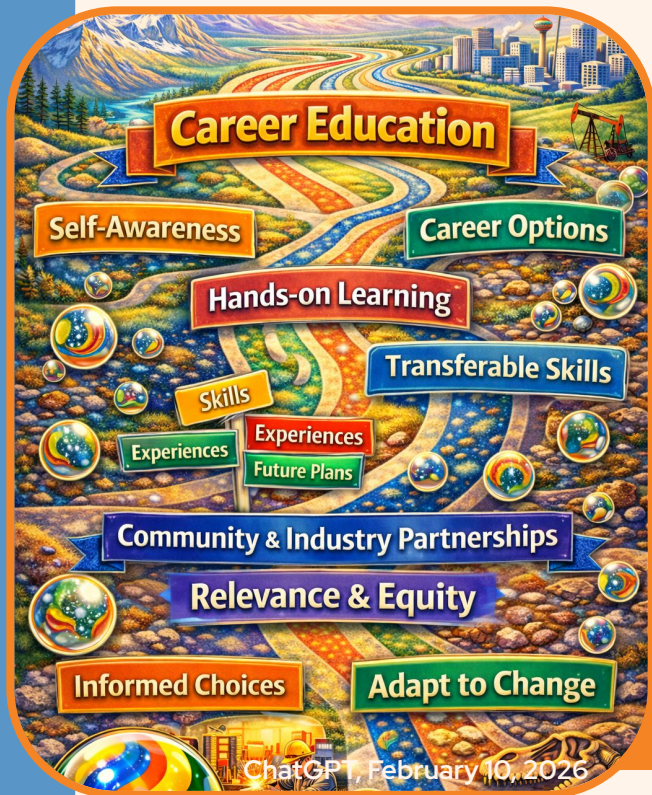


Interactive Session

The Foundation - Career Education



Strong Transitions Grounded in Career Education



Successful Movement into Skilled Trade Careers



**Lifelong,
Student-
Centere**

Explore Career Options

Build Transferable Skills

Self-Awareness

Experiential Learning

Community Engagement



Essential Question



What information and support do I need to ensure successful student movement into skilled trade careers?

Reflection...





Career Education Foundations



How is career education integrated in Alberta schools?



Core Career Education Experiences

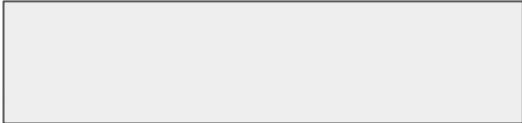
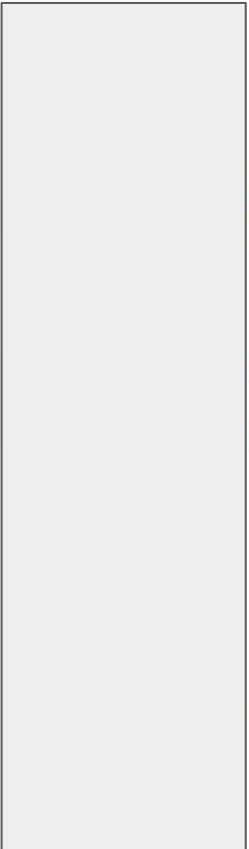
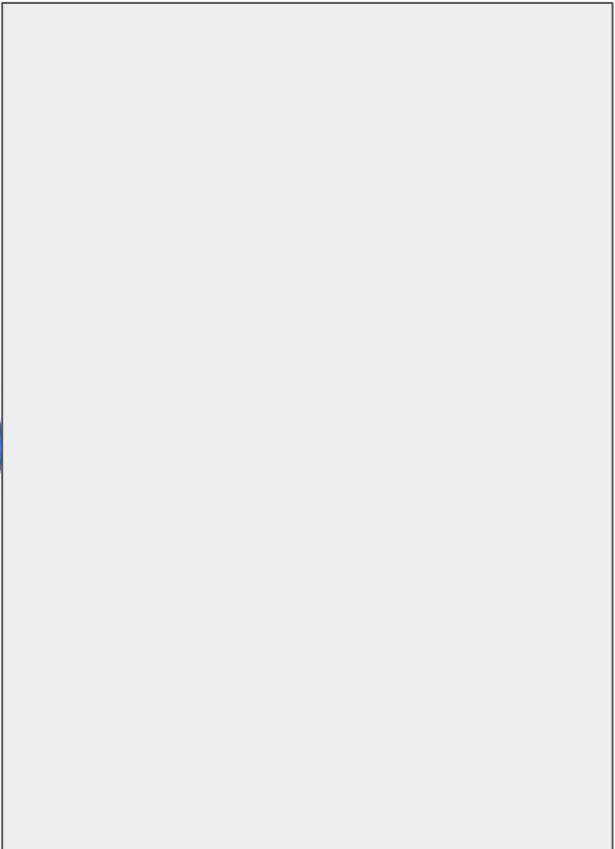
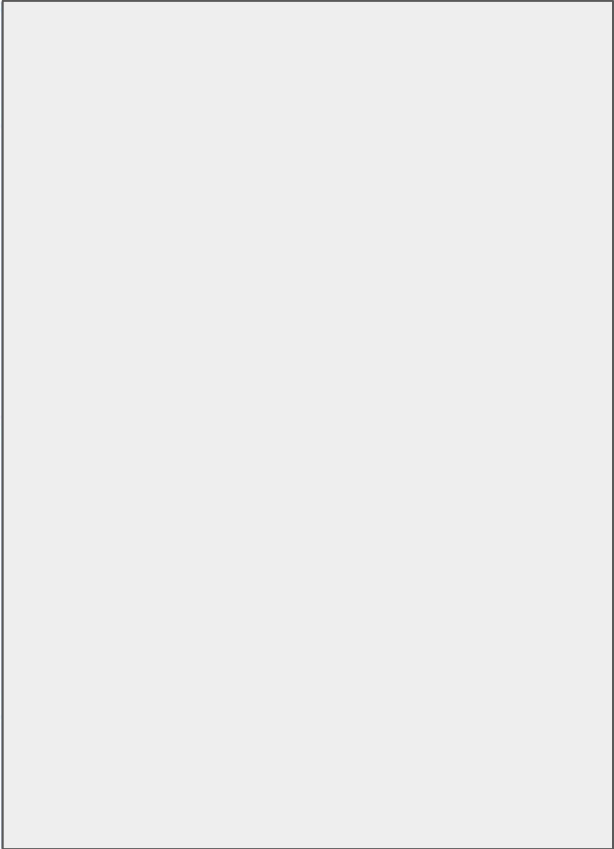


building
confidence,
flexibility, and
lifelong
learning skills



preparing for
the future

Logistics Classroom



Integrated CEFL with CTF

(semestered)



CEFL embedded in CTF Courses	# of days
Safety, Tools & Measurement	5
Career Explorations	C.E. 6
Construction	Con. 14
Financial Literacy	F.L. 5
Food Sciences	F.S. 14
Human Care & Services	HCS 14
Technology & Design	T&D 8
Celebration	3

Supporting every educator in every classroom

Designed for Semester (3-4 classes a week)

Each child receives 6 different courses (14 classes)

# of days	5	3	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	
Groups																					Number of classes = 63				(18-19 wks)
A	Safety, Tools & Measurements	C.E.	F.L.	F.L.	F.S	F.S	T&D	F.S	F.S	T&D	HCS	HCS	T&D	HCS	HCS	T&D	Con.	Con.	Con.	Con.	C.E.	Celebration & Clean-Up			
B		C.E.	F.L.	T&D	Con.	Con.	F.L.	Con.	Con.	T&D	F.S	F.S	T&D	F.S	F.S	T&D	HCS	HCS	HCS	HCS	C.E.				
C		C.E.	F.L.	T&D	HCS	HCS	T&D	HCS	HCS	F.L.	Con.	Con.	T&D	Con.	Con.	T&D	F.S	F.S	F.S	F.S	C.E.				

Career Explorations & Financial Literacy

Grade 7 - 9 (10)

Career Exploration: Purposeful exploration of past and present experiences can support a healthy work-life balance, contribute to self-knowledge, and assist in navigating transitions while pursuing career and educational goals.

Career Opportunities: Volunteer or work-integrated learning experiences can influence career development and promote world-of-work and community interactions.

Financial Literacy: Informed financial decision making contributes to the well-being of individuals, groups, and communities.



Career Explorations & Financial Literacy

Grade 7

CAREER EXPLORATION

Students **explore** self-image in relation to career aspirations.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students **examine** the influence of experiences on employment preferences.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Students **investigate** personal finance.



Career Explorations & Financial Literacy

Grade 8

CAREER EXPLORATION

Students **relate self-awareness** to the development of career goals.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students **investigate the role of experiences** in the evaluation of career possibilities.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Students **identify strategies** for financial well-being.



Career Explorations & Financial Literacy

Grade 9

CAREER EXPLORATION

Students **apply** self-awareness to career exploration.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students **relate experiences and employment opportunities** to career pathways.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Students **examine financial security.**



Grade 9
Student 'Job Fair'
Planning for the Future
Focus on Assessment



Building Background Knowledge & Understanding

Learning Experience

Part 1:

Learning Task Part A

Student Personal Skill and Experience Inventory

Learning Task Part B

Connecting Background, Experience and Knowledge

Extra-Curricular Activities	Paid-Volunteer Activities
Soccer	Baby-sitting
Music	Walking dog
Camping	Mow the lawn
Tik Tok creator	Wash windows
Puzzles	Shovel snow
Ride scooter	Chores on farm

Demonstrating Knowledge & Understanding

Supporting every educator
in every classroom



Learning Experience

Part 2: Job Fair Planning & Facilitation

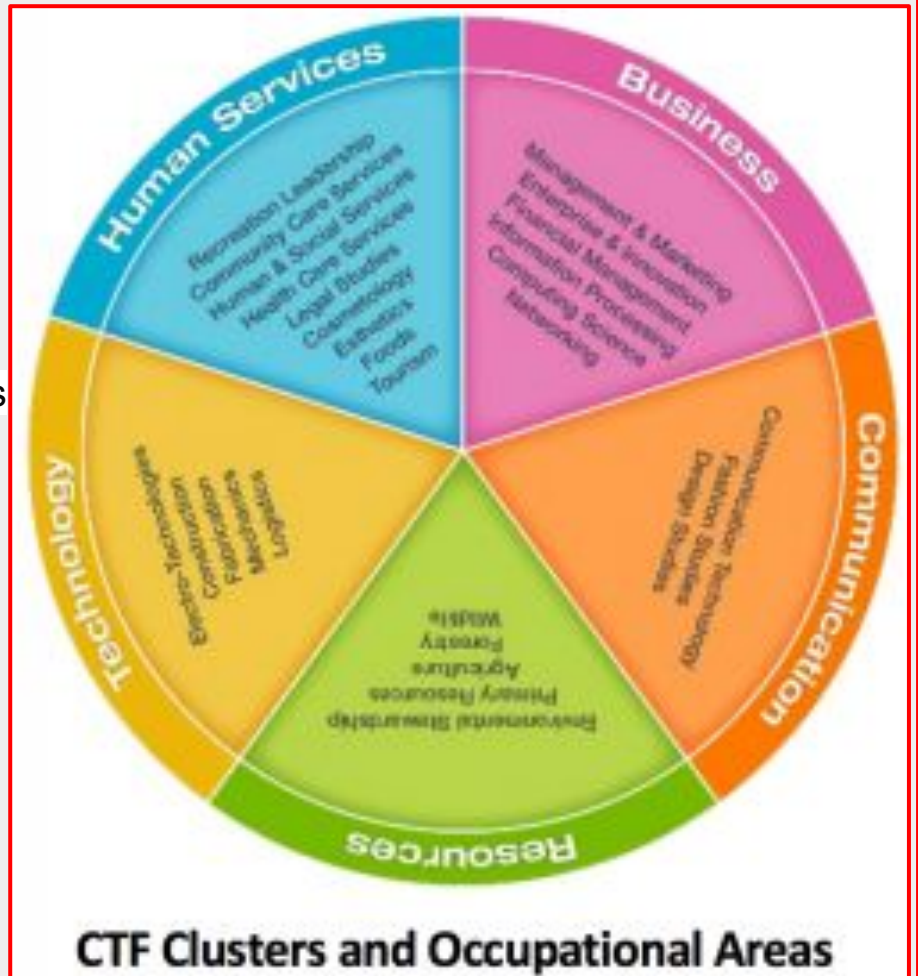
Learning Task Part E



Career & Technology Foundations (Gr. 5-9)

Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) is an Alberta curriculum for students in grades 5 to 9 designed to help them explore their interests, passions, and skills while making connections to career possibilities. It focuses on hands-on learning through challenges, allowing students to develop skills in five main clusters, mirroring the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program in high school.

- Five Occupational Clusters:
 - Business
 - Communication
 - Human Services
 - Resources
 - Technology



CALM - Career and Life Management



Themes

- Personal Choices
 - Health and Wellness
- Resources Choices
 - Financial Literacy
- Career and Life Choices
 - Career Planning

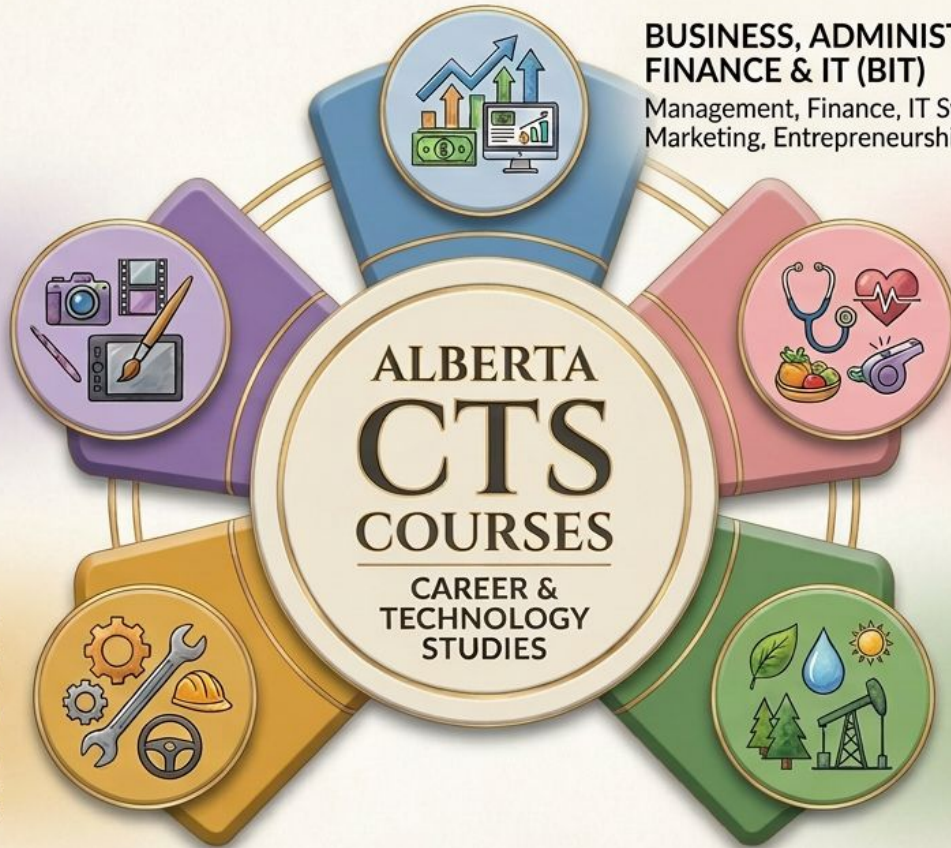


**MEDIA, DESIGN &
COMMUNICATION ARTS
(MDC)**

Design Studies,
Communication Technology,
Fashion Studies, Performing,
Arts, Photography

**TRADES,
MANUFACTURING &
TRANSPORTATION
(TMT)**

Construction, Mechanics,
Electro-Technologies,
Manufacturing, Logistics



**BUSINESS, ADMINISTRATION,
FINANCE & IT (BIT)**

Management, Finance, IT Systems,
Marketing, Entrepreneurship

**HEALTH, RECREATION &
HUMAN SERVICES (HRH)**

Health Care Services, Foods,
Human Services, Legal Studies,
Recreation Leadership

**NATURAL RESOURCES
(NAT)**

Environmental Stewardship,
Agriculture, Forestry, Energy &
Primary Industries, Wildlife

Credits awarded to Central Alberta Students 2021 - 2024 (three years).

School Division	Head Off.	Com. Sc	Ent & Inno	Financial Mgmt	Info Pro	Mgmt & Mark	Network	Com Care	Cosmo	Com Jus	Earth/Sci	Food	Health C A	Health C S	Hum & Soc	Lang/St.	Rec Lead	Tour
Battle River SD	Camrose	234	95	144	300	188		148	379		280	1268		2010	1191	292	678	256
Black Gold SD	Nisku	602	158	507	215	523	40	587	729		782	2910		5887	3290	576	1797	1375
Chinook's Edge SD	Innisfail	619	63	688	1246	63		334	656		609	3160	40	3767	1278	73	1307	149
Christ the Redeemer Cathol	Okotoks		79	483	877	223		1381	107		54	2864		3113	1042	515	1401	61
East Cent. AB Catholic SD	Stettler	40	40	84	321	57		162			40	369		682	207	40	88	40
Pembina Hills SD	Barhead	230	65	557	573	476	261	46	388		138	2030	44	2526	569	1521	721	63
Prairie Land SD	Hanna	70	95	80	491	61	40	166	41		44	440	40	857	253	40	248	40
Red Deer Catholic SD	Red Deer	572	65	156	1988	40		162	421	56	373	2035	54	3858	1537	196	1677	
Red Deer SD	Red Deer	655	287	283	1708	672	134	643	621		583	2299		3559	1128	115	983	86
Wetaskiwin SD	Wetaskiwin	157		59	137	88		40	126		99	1267		1715	742	40	561	146
Westaskiwin Catholic	Wetaskiwin																	
Wolf Creek SD	Ponoka	272	228	84	261	287		432	166		124	2386	40	2725	1821	53	1209	121
	Credit Totals	3451	1175	3125	8117	2678	475	4101	3634	56	3126	21028	218	30699	13058	3461	10670	2337
	5-credit courses	690	235	625	1623	536	95	820	727	11	625	4206	44	6140	2612	692	2134	467



Credits awarded to Central Alberta Students 2021 - 2024 (three years).

School Division	Comm Tec	Des St.	Fas St.	Agriculture	Env't. Stewardship	Forestry	Primary Resource	Wildlife	4h	Construction	Electrical St.	Fabrication	Logistics	Mechanics
Battle River SD	1776	353	342	389	57	72		360		812	108	465		305
Black Gold SD	2163	461	111	261	79	50	40	1134		1430	40	1335		2076
Chinook's Edge SD	1809	416	226	844	82	96		480		1717	236	762		873
Christ the Redeemer C	1764	612		241	99			284		857	128			
East Cent. AB Catholic	853	96	71	415	45	40	161	81		184	43	89	40	261
Pembina Hills SD	9643	82	344	1102		2977		57	40	770	40	318		842
Prairie Land SD	443	76	50	536	40	40	40	125		213	40	72		91
Red Deer Catholic SD	545	290	74	203	40			468		318	475	433		408
Red Deer SD	2727	684	520	811	508			339		826	481	687		584
Wetaskiwin SD	495	409	40	104	1077	64		472	40	732	256	450		479
Westaskiwin Catholic														
Wolf Creek SD	926	289	365	619	86	40		154		1341	244	1104		1409
Credit Totals	23144	3768	2143	5525	2113	3379	241	3954	80	9200	2091	5715	40	7328
5-credit courses	4629	754	429	1105	423	676	48	791	16	1840	418	1143	8	1466



Programming Goals



*Transferable Skills
from Case Studies*

*Transitioning to
Big Picture for
Students and
Families*



Skilled Trade Careers - Choices After High School





Getting In



Meet Requirements



Entrance Exams



Entrance
Accommodations

Apprenticeship and Industry Training

Apprenticeship Education Entrance Requirements



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of the following courses:

CATEGORY A

English 10-2
Math 10-3

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests*

OR

Entrance Exam

CATEGORY B

English 20-2
Math 20-3
Science 10

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests*

OR

Entrance Exam

CATEGORY C

English 10-2
Math 10-3
Science 10

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests*

OR

Entrance Exam

RECOMMENDED PATH

Alberta High School Diploma that includes the following courses:

English 30-2
Math 30-3

Physics 20 OR Chemistry 20 OR Science 20
Related Career and Technology Studies courses

English 30-2
Math 30-3

Physics 30 OR Chemistry 30 OR Science 30
Related Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses

English 30-2
Math 30-3

Physics 20 OR Chemistry 20 OR Science 20
Related Career and Technology Studies courses

CATEGORY A

Baker
Barber
Bricklayer
Cabinetmaker
Carpenter
Concrete Finisher
Cook
Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator
Floor Covering Installer
Glazier
Hairstylist
Insulator (Heat and Frost)
Ironworker
Lather (Interior Systems Mechanic)
Locksmith
Metal Fabricator (Fitter)
Painter and Decorator
Parts Technician
Water Well Driller
Welder

CATEGORY B

Agricultural Equipment Technician
Appliance Service Technician
Automotive Service Technician
Boilermaker
Communication Technician
Electric Motor Systems Technician
Electrician
Elevator Constructor
Gasfitter
Heavy Equipment Technician
Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
Motorcycle Mechanic
Natural Gas Compression Technician
Plumber
Power System Electrician
Powerline Technician
Sheet Metal Worker
Sprinkler Systems Installer
Steamfitter-Pipefitter
Transport Refrigeration Technician

CATEGORY C

Auto Body Technician
Landscape Horticulturist
Machinist
Outdoor Power Equipment Technician
Recreation Vehicle Service Technician

CATEGORY D*

Roofer
Instrumentation and Control Technician
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic

* See the individual trades on tradesecrets.alberta.ca for Category D trade entrance requirements.

Equivalencies will be considered for entrance requirements.

* Applicants can use a combination of GED and CAEC tests to meet the requirement. Either the GED or the CAEC test must be completed in each of the five subjects.

If you have an existing trade certificate, it can serve as your entrance requirement when registering in an additional apprenticeship program.

Entrance Exams

If you don't meet your trade's high school entrance requirements, you can write an entrance exam instead.

Entrance exams show you have the skills you need to start classroom instruction.

Who needs to write an entrance exam?

You may need to pass an entrance exam if:

- You didn't complete the required high school courses for your trade
- You studied outside Alberta and don't have:
 - a transcript from a Canadian high school, or
 - an education assessment
 - International Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE)
 - World Education Certificate (WEC)

[Check the entrance requirements](#)

What's the Exam Like?

- 100 multiple-choice questions
- Subjects: **Math, English**, and sometimes **Science**
- **3-hour** time limit
- You need **70% or higher** to pass

[Download the Study Guide](#) 

Exam Accommodations

If you have a disability identified by a qualified professional, you can request accommodations to help you during your exams.

Available Accommodations



These accommodations aim to provide equal opportunities for all apprentices.

Accommodation(s) may be available to you, depending on:

- your needs,



High School Pathways




CTS Apprenticeship
Pathway



Registered
Apprenticeship
Program (RAP)

PLA - High School Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Programs

 Finished a CTS apprenticeship pathway in high school? Take this PLA to get credit toward your apprenticeship.



Are you ready for RAP?

Find out how to get started in your new career today!

RAP Registered Apprenticeship Program

Employees are you ready for RAP?

- 1) I'm ready. How's that?**
- 2) Start learning and earning.**
- 3) Get certified!**

Don't wait - start your career today!

Visit workinschools.alberta.ca for more information.



Alberta Apprenticeship Programs

Program Name	Duration	Start Date	End Date	Location	Notes
Accounting	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Automotive	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Construction	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Electrician	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Food Service	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Health Services	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Information Technology	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Manufacturing	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Oil and Gas	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Public Safety	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...
Transportation	3 years	2024	2027	Edmonton	...

Alberta Apprenticeship Programs



Apprenticeship



On-the-job Training



Technical Training



AIT Industry Exam

Apprenticeship



Alberta
Apprenticeship
& Industry
Training

Regulated

Commitment/ 1 - 4 yrs

Earn Certification

Red Seal

Compulsory/Non-Compulsory

Credential Index

 View a list of all trades and their corresponding educational credential.

Designated Trade	Credential
Agricultural Equipment Technician *	Advanced Diploma
Appliance Service Technician - Commercial Appliance Service Technician	Certificate
Appliance Service Technician *	Diploma
Auto Body Technician - Auto Body Prepper	Certificate of Achievement
Auto Body Technician - Auto Body Refinisher *	Certificate
Auto Body Technician - Auto Body Repairer	Certificate
Auto Body Technician *	Diploma
Automotive Service Technician *	Advanced Diploma
Baker *	Diploma
Barber	Certificate of Achievement
Boilermaker *	Diploma



Certificate Diploma




Technician &
Technology Programs



Entrance Requirements
Prior Learning
Assessment

PLA - Technician and Technology Programs

 Graduated from or are enrolled in an accredited technician or technology program? Get credit.

Before you apply

- Complete or enroll in an accredited program
- Meet the [entrance requirements](#)
- Confirm that your program is a technician or technology program

When you apply

- **Graduates:** upload a photo/screenshot of your diploma
- **Current students:** enter the program number
- Pay the non-refundable PLA fee

BUILD YOUR FUTURE IN ALBERTA

LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED.

Alberta's polytechnics and colleges provide hands-on learning, real-world experience and pathways to rewarding careers.



**NORTHWESTERN
POLYTECHNIC**



**LETHBRIDGE
POLYTECHNIC**



NAIT



**OLDS
COLLEGE**



SAIT




**PORTAGE
COLLEGE**




Your journey.
Our purpose.



Hands-on learning.
Real-world impact.



A leading polytechnic
committed to
student success.



Education
that grows
possibilities.



Learn by doing.
Lead the future.



Your path.
Our privilege.



Career-focused
programs



Strong industry
connections



Supportive campus
communities



Building stronger
communities together



Pre-employment




Pre-employment
Programs



Entrance Requirements
Prior Learning
Assessment

PLA - Pre-employment Programs

 Completed or taking an apprenticeship

Before you apply:

- Completed or enroll in an apprenticeship
- Meet the **entrance requirements**
- Confirm that your program is approved

When you apply:

- **Program finished:** update your resume
- **Currently enrolled:** enter your program
- **Pay the non-refundable application fee**

PRE-EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ALBERTA



Build Skills. Gain Experience. Start Your Career.

Pre-employment programs give you the training, skills and confidence to enter the workforce and start your apprenticeship journey.



Lakeland
COLLEGE

-  Pre-Employment Automotive Service Technician
-  Pre-Employment Carpentry
-  Pre-Employment Electrician
-  Pre-Employment Welder



LETHBRIDGE
POLYTECHNIC

-  Pre-Electrician Certificate
-  Pre-Carpenter Certificate
-  Pre-Pipe Trades Certificate
-  Pre-Powerline Technician Certificate
-  Pre-Welder Certificate



MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE

-  Pre-Employment Carpentry
-  Pre-Employment Electrician
-  Pre-Employment Common Pipe Trades
-  Pre-Employment Plumbing
-  Pre-Employment Welding



NAIT

-  Pre-Employment Auto Body Repair






NORTHERN LAKES
COLLEGE

-  Pre-Employment Carpenter
-  Pre-Employment Electrician
-  Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician (Mechanic)
-  Pre-Employment Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
-  Pre-Employment Pipe Trades
-  Pre-Employment Welder



OLDS
COLLEGE

-  Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician
-  Pre-Employment Motorcycle Mechanic
-  Pre-Employment Welder



PORTAGE
COLLEGE

-  Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician
-  Pre-Employment Welder



Red Deer
Polytechnic

Explore hands-on training and career pathways to launch your future.
Programs coming soon!



-  Pre-Employment Automotive Service Technician
-  Pre-Employment Cabinetmaker
-  Pre-Employment Carpenter
-  Pre-Employment Electrician
-  Pre-Employment Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
-  Pre-Employment Pipe Trades
-  Pre-Employment Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
-  Pre-Employment Welding



GAIN HANDS-ON SKILLS

Learn practical skills and build confidence.



CONNECT TO EMPLOYERS

Build relationships and open doors to opportunities.



PATHWAY TO APPRENTICESHIP

Get the foundation you need to start your career journey.



STRONG FUTURES

Invest in your future. Strengthen Alberta.





Work Pathway



Previous Work
Experience in the
Trade




Previous Training in
the Trade
(Non-accredited)

PLA - Previous Work Experience in the Trade

 Worked in the trade for at least one year? Use this PLA for period credit.

Before you apply

- Have 1 year or more of work experience in the trade (*you don't have to be working in the trade now.*)
- Meet the [entrance requirements](#)  for the apprenticeship program in your trade.
- Contact an AIT office to confirm you are eligible


When you apply

- Upload proof of work exper
- Pay the non-refundable PLA


If you have enough work exper
apprenticeship program.

- To get your journeyerson c
going the PLA route.

PLA - Previous Training in the Trade (Non-accredited)

 Have non-accredited training that matches the apprenticeship program? Try this PLA.

Before you apply:

- Meet the [entrance requirements](#)  for the apprenticeship program in your trade.
- Refer to the [Curriculum Guide](#) in the [Trade Profile](#) for your trade to see if your training covers the same topics.
- [Contact us](#) to confirm whether your training is eligible.

When you apply:

- Upload proof of your training (*certificates, transcripts, course outlines*).
- Pay the non-refundable PLA fee (*see below*).

Successful Movement - The Other Parts



What base skills support successful movement into skilled trades?



Successful Movement - The Other Parts



**Successful
Movement
into Skilled
Trade Careers**

Digital/Computer Skills

Application Readiness

Accounts

Basic Career Skills

Essential Workplace Readiness





What's in My Starter Kit?

- **Personal Email**
- **[Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca) / mypass**
- **Alberta Student Number**



- **Resume / Cover Letter**
- **Online Application Skills**
- **Ability to Upload Documents**



- **Understand Sponsorship/
Employer Process**
- **Basic Job Search Skills**



MyTradesecrets Portal Access (SIN # & Online Payment Method)



Career Progressions - A Guiding Document



01

Personal Career Exploration

02

Career Pathway Planning

03

Career Experiences

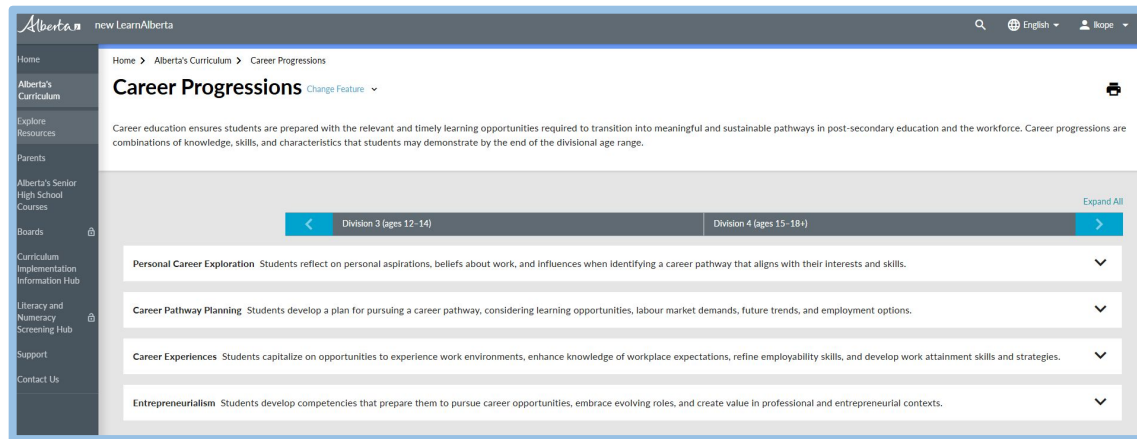
04

Entrepreneurialism

Career Progressions Continued

Career Progressions - new LearnAlberta

Career education ensures students are prepared with the relevant and timely learning opportunities required to transition into meaningful and sustainable pathways in post-secondary education and the workforce. Career progressions are combinations of knowledge, skills, and characteristics that students may demonstrate by the end of the divisional age range.



Big Picture for Students and Families



Learning about yourself is important

1

Exploring many options is encouraged

2

Careers change over time

3

Being adaptable is a key life skill

4



Supporting Skilled Trade Careers Conversations



Skilled Trades - Strong Career Possibilities

Effective Strategies for Productive Conversations

- Lead with outcomes, not opinions
- Use credible evidence and examples
- Reframe trades as equal, not alternative



Lead with outcomes, not opinions



Use credible evidence and examples

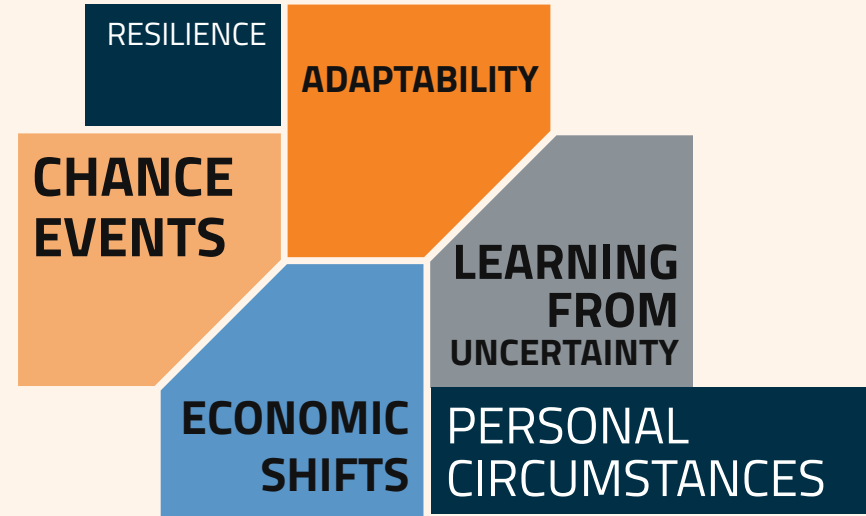


Reframe skilled trades as equal, not alternative





Supporting Conversations



Resources Supporting Students Going Into Skilled Trade Careers



Essential Question



How prepared do you believe your system is to meet the career exploration planning and programming of your students moving into skilled trade careers?

Reflection...





Tools & Resources



Save the Date

Designing for Impact: Leading the New CEFL Curriculum Implementation

June 9 Edmonton 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Presenters: Chris Zarski, Julia Drefs, Diana White

June 10 Calgary 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Presenters: Jackie Taylor, Chris Zarski, Diana White

Join us for this full-day, face-to-face leadership session as we bring together leaders from across Alberta to collectively unpack and deepen understanding of the Gr 7 - 9 Career Education & Financial Literacy (CEFL) curriculum.

Key topics include:

- Overview of the newly announced Career Progressions
- CEFL programming, pedagogy, and assessment
- Financial Literacy considerations
- CEFL & Beyond: cross-curricular approaches to outcome attainment

Be part of the conversation shaping Career Education and Financial Literacy - by design.

