



# Forest Technology Diploma

Alberta's forests are a renewable public resource, managed according to Alberta's Forests Act. In NAIT's Forest Technology diploma program, you'll learn how to manage forests responsibly and sustainably on behalf of the residents of Alberta through a variety of field activities, class lectures and data analysis.

If you have a passion for the environment, enjoy being outdoors, have a strong work ethic, are in good physical fitness and comfortable working with computers, Forest Technology could be an excellent fit for you!

This is a 2-year diploma program delivered over 4 semesters. Fall semesters that begin in August run 17 weeks while Winter semesters beginning in January run 15 weeks.

## Hands-on, industry-relevant skills

Modern forestry is a high-tech, field-oriented career focused on forest management activities such as reclamation, fire behaviour and protection, insects and disease, watersheds, ecosystems, reforestation, forest engineering, wildlife habitat, forest legislation, recreation, soils, harvest planning and operations, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

These are just some of the subject areas we cover in the Forest Technology program to help prepare you for real-world environmental management:

- Learn to use current tools, equipment, techniques and technology for forest and land management
- Conduct wildfire and forest health operations
- Generate a vegetation inventory
- Apply relevant policy and legislation

## Field training

What better way to learn about forests than spending some quality time outdoors? In Forest Technology, field training is stressed over the 2 years of the program.

The first 5 weeks of Year 1 are spent at NAIT's Kidney Lake camp, located about 50 km northwest of Whitecourt, AB. During camp, plenty of time will be spent in the field developing foundational skills in wildfire suppression, plant identification, forest ecology, and forest measurements.

The Kidney Lake camp has a number of modest cabins and permanent structures in which you'll sleep, eat and attend classes. You'll also have time to develop strong relationships with the people you'll be working with during the program and throughout your career.

Year 2 field training primarily occurs in the Cache-Percotte forest, located adjacent to Hinton, AB. Here you'll continue your hands-on learning and further develop career focused skills essential to becoming a successful forest professional.

Field labs will emphasize real world activities associated with reforestation, operational planning, sustainable harvesting, and reclamation using the latest technology.

Other field labs in and around Edmonton are conducted throughout the two years of the program.

## Co-op option

Students may be eligible to participate in a 4, 8, or 12-month co-op placement once they complete all level 1 courses, and before they complete all the level 2 courses. Successful co-op students will secure a position working in a program-related industry and gain advanced job-readiness skills. Acceptance into our co-op program is based on successful completion of a minimum of 30 credits in first term coursework, including two prerequisite courses and a minimum GPA of 2.5+.

## Admission Requirements

This content is specific to the selected Aug 19, 2025 intake.

### Minimum entrance requirements

The specific academic requirements you must meet to be considered for admission. Where applicable, the minimum accepted Alberta high school courses are listed in round brackets. Equivalent or higher-level courses are also accepted.

- 63% in each of:
  - Grade 12 Language Arts (English 30-2)
  - Grade 12 Mathematics (Math 30-2 or Applied Math 30) or Grade 12 Physics (Physics 30)
  - One of: Grade 11 Biology (Biology 20), Grade 11 Chemistry (Chemistry 20), Grade 11 Physics (Physics 20), or Grade 12 Science (Science 30)