

Hindsight is 2020. OPPORTUNITY is 2021.

With a 90% employment rate, companies have always sought out SAIT graduates — and even during these challenging times, our students are finding new doors to open.

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The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

Hands-on learning in a virtual world

In response to COVID-19, SAIT had to rethink program delivery and pivot quickly to ensure a safe learning environment for our community of students, faculty and staff. As a technical training institution that provides students with industry-relevant skills, how could our applied, hands-on education model translate to a digital experience for students?

The challenge to deliver these skills to our students virtually was met with enthusiasm. Instructors across all programs rose to the challenge, finding unique ways to bring the in-class experience online.

Our Centre for Learning and Technology developed a course for all faculty to prepare for and deliver their course materials online – ensuring our students were set up for success with faculty who could assist them every step of the way.

Technology such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), Virtual Design Construction (VDC), 3D modeling and Virtual Reality (VR) software became an important component of changing our hands-on learning from 'IRL' to online.

SAIT's Optician diploma program, one of SAIT's newest diploma programs in the School of Health and Public Safety, is using a 3D replicate of an eye for students to practice their skills on. You'll find students in our automotive programs using augmented reality to transform photo diagrams into interactive models for a better understanding of the material. Students in the Radio, Television and Broadcast News program carried on despite physical distancing by contributing content remotely with Open Broadcaster Software and using Microsoft Teams for interviews.

SAIT instructors in our culinary programs have used Microsoft Teams and social media platforms like YouTube to deliver captivating video tutorials on the intricacies of culinary skills such as cake decorating, meat preparation and plating.

Pipe Trades instructor Fred Bretzke has already been incorporating advanced technology into his teaching, and his students love it and want to see more of it. Thanks to 3D modelling and AR, teaching the theory of trades is possible online.

When it comes to the required lab time to apply that theory, not everything needs to be digital. Small cohorts, physical distancing and enhanced sanitization measures make it possible for students to learn and practice hands-on skills in our state-of-the-art labs and classrooms. This blended delivery of virtual and in-person training will allow our students to develop the skills they need for success in their future careers in business, construction, energy and environment, hospitality and tourism, health, information and communications technologies, manufacturing, and transportation.



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