

Haul Truck Operator FAQs

(last revised 30 October 2014)

- **What does the course cost?**

As of 1 April 2014

Course deposit (due upon acceptance into the course)	\$250.00
Course tuition (due 6 weeks prior to course commencement)	\$5813.75
GST	\$303.19
Tech Fee	\$5.00
Total	\$6371.94
Work Term Fee (due prior to work term interview)	\$661.50
GST	\$33.07
Total for Work term	\$694.57
Total for Course	\$7066.51

- Tuition does not include textbooks—book list will be supplied on the first day of class.
- Students must provide their own CSA-approved, steel-toed safety boots with 8-inch uppers and anti-skid grips. These boots will be required at the beginning of the course.
- While every effort is made to assist eligible students in obtaining a paid work term placement, the employer ultimately decides whether each student obtains one. Keyano College **cannot guarantee** work term placements.

- **How do I register?**

Before you can register, you must apply and pass successfully through the admissions process.

- **How do I apply?**

1. Fill out and sign the application, and send it in with the following documentation (note that there is currently no application fee for this course):
 - **Official transcripts** proving that you have your Grade 12 diploma, its international equivalent, or your GED. You can obtain official transcripts from your province's ministry of education. Please note that you do not get this document back once we receive it.
 - Photocopy of your valid, unrestricted Class 5 driver's license (or your provincial equivalent).
 - A current driver's abstract (available from Alberta Registries or your provincial motor vehicles department) that proves you have no more than one (1) driving conviction within the past three (3) years. **Original documents only.**

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- Proof that you are a Canadian Citizen or have attained Permanent Resident (formerly Landed Immigrant) status.
 - Your current resume.
 - A Career Profile Questionnaire (provided with application package).
2. Pass the Differential Aptitude Test (DAT) with a minimum total score of 4500, available <http://www.keyano.ca/ContinuingEducation/TestingServices/DATTest>
 3. If you meet the eligibility requirements, we will notify you that you may schedule your Physical Demands test at that time.

Please note that applications which are faxed or e-mailed to us, or are missing documentation, will not be reviewed.

- **Can I apply on line?**

Currently, no.

- **How long is the waitlist?**

As of January 2014, we have implemented application periods for each term of the year. That is, if you plan to attend the course in Spring 2015, you must apply in the application period of November 1 – 30, 2014 in order to be considered. Please see our website for available application deadlines.

If you are not accepted for the term for which you applied, you may apply again during a later application period.

- **How soon after I apply will I hear back?**

Our goal is to acknowledge receipt of your application within two weeks. No admissions decisions will be made until after the closing date of the application period.

- **What if I don't have my Grade 12?**

Your secondary school (or high school) diploma is a hiring requirement at our partner mines. If you did not graduate from high school, you can write your GED, which is an acceptable substitute for this course (<http://education.alberta.ca/students/hsed/alternative2.aspx>).

- **What if I got my Grade 12 in another country?**

Send an official copy of your international diploma or transcripts. If they are not in English, please provide a certified English translation. If we are unable to verify from existing resources that your school is accredited, we may request an IQAS report (International Qualification Assessment Service). Note that there is a fee for an IQAS report.

Alternatively, it may be quicker and less expensive to obtain your GED.

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- **What if I don't have my Grade 12, or don't have the records, but I do have a university degree?**

We recognize that it seems a little backwards to require proof of Grade 12 when you have a post-secondary certificate. However, due to the variations in admitting procedures at universities and colleges from around the world, our policy is that we require proof of Grade 12 (or GED), regardless of post-secondary education.

- **Do I have to have an Alberta driver's license?**

No, but your license must be your province's equivalent of an Alberta non-GDL Class 5.

- **What if I have more than one driving conviction within the past three years?**

If you have more than one driving conviction within the past three years, you are not eligible for the course. You may apply again when your abstract shows only one conviction that is not older than three years. ***There are no exceptions to this policy.***

- **What if I took a course and got the demerits removed from my license?**

Unfortunately, that won't help you. We don't count demerits or accidents. We count convictions.

- **What if my extra driving conviction was just a technicality?**

If it's a conviction, and it's on your abstract, we have to count it. The only way to get us to disregard a conviction that is less than three years old is to convince a judge to have it removed from your record, and send us a new abstract that doesn't have that conviction on it anymore.

- **What if I'm not a citizen or permanent resident, but I do have a work visa?**

Due to the number of variations that exist regarding student and work visas, the Steering Committee has decided that we will only consider students who are either Canadian Citizens or have attained Permanent Resident of Canada status.

- **What if I'm refugee or protected person?**

You must provide proof of your refugee/protected person status and proof of your work visa.

- **Can I pay a deposit to hold my seat while I become eligible?**

No. You don't pay anything for the Haul Truck course until AFTER you are accepted.

- **What is the DAT?**

The Differential Aptitude Test, or DAT, is a supervised, timed, multiple-choice test that evaluates a matrix of attributes, including verbal reasoning, numerical ability, abstract reasoning, mechanical reasoning, space relations, and language usage. You can find more information here at <http://www.keyano.ca/ContinuingEducation/TestingServices/DATTest>

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- **Should I wait until I'm accepted before I do my DAT?**

No. Send in your applications package AND write the DAT. We must have your DAT results before we can make a decision on whether to accept you.

- **Can I do the DAT online?**

Currently, no. The test must be done in person, with an invigilator, proctor, or testing supervisor.

- **Do I have to come to Fort McMurray to write the DAT?**

No, you can arrange to do an Out-of-Town DAT through Testing Services. You can find more information here at <http://www.keyano.ca/ContinuingEducation/TestingServices/DATTest>

- **What if I have a disability and can't take standard tests?**

Contact our Disability Services department to see if you can arrange for accommodations at 780-791-8934 or <http://www.keyano.ca/Services/DisabilityServices>

- **What score do I have to get on the DAT?**

Currently, the minimum DAT score we will accept is 4500 (out of 10,000). Please note that attaining this minimum score or higher is not a guarantee that you will be accepted; it is only a step in the admissions process.

- **What is the physical demands test?**

The physical demands test is to ensure that you are physically capable of getting on and off the truck in the event of an emergency, and that you have no conditions that would be exacerbated by operating heavy equipment. Upon successful completion of the course, there will be a more in-depth physical exam(including a) prior to gaining employment at any of the mines.

The haul truck physical demands test starts with a blood pressure test. If your blood pressure is unacceptably high, the test will not continue. The rest of the test comprises of:

- Step-up warm up
- Floor to waist lift 50 lbs.
- Sustained shoulder-height work
- Ladder climb
- Basic back assessment

- **I wear glasses. Can I still take the course?**

Provided that you have adequate depth perception and night vision to operate heavy equipment, corrective lenses (in the form of prescription safety glasses) are acceptable to the mines, and therefore to us. Please note that contact lenses are **not** permitted at any of our partner mines.

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- **What if I have high blood pressure?**

The physical demands test, which you must pass in order to be accepted, starts with a blood pressure test. If your blood pressure is too high, the test will not continue, and you will not be accepted into the course. We recommend that all health-related concerns be addressed prior to your physical demands test.

- **What if I've had a heart attack?**

When you have your physical demands test, bring a note from your doctor permitting you to exert yourself.

- **What if I have another medical condition?**

If you have or previously had a medical or health condition that may impact your ability to work, or may be exacerbated by operating heavy equipment, then it is your responsibility to disclose that information to the testing technician, and to provide documentation from your doctor stating that you are able to participate in the physical demands test. If you have any doubts at all as to whether your condition is a concern, check with the testing clinic in advance.

- **Are there any other courses I can take that will improve my chances of being accepted?**

No. There are some on-line preparation courses out there, but past students who took them have reported that they were ultimately not helpful. The only things you will need that are not provided in the Haul Truck Operator course are your CSTS and OSSA certificates.

- **Is there funding available for this course?**

No. The course is not eligible for student loans or government grants. Some students have been sponsored for career retraining by Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) or the military, but not Employment Insurance (EI). Each student is responsible for finding their own source of funding.

- **Is there a payment plan for the course fees?**

No. Payments are required on their due dates. If you do not pay by the due date, you will be cancelled from the course.

- **What is the likelihood of getting a job afterwards?**

Haul Truck Operator is an entry-level position at most mines in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and therefore there is a steady trickle of demand for new operators. So far, 75% of our students have obtained work term work placements, and we estimate that 85 – 90% of those have obtained permanent employment in the field.

- **How do I get a work term?**

Upon successful completion of the course, eligible students are given an opportunity for a placement with one of our partner mines. Depending on how many positions they have

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available and whether you pass through their selection process (which may include an interview), the mine will decide whether or not to offer you a three-month, paid work term.

- **What if I don't get a work term?**

All efforts are made to assist students to obtain a paid work term placement. However, these terms are limited by industry demand, and the decision as to whether an individual student obtains one is ultimately up to the employer. **Keyano College cannot guarantee work term placements.**

If you do not get a work term offer from one of our partner mines, we will refund your work term fee in full and do our best to start you on your job search. Ultimately, though, it's up to you to find a job on your own.

- **I've heard I have to pass a pre-employment aptitude test. Is that true?**

Yes, one of the mines currently does require a pre-employment test.

- **What will improve my chances of getting a work term?**

The reasons we've been given that people do not obtain a work term placement usually come down to a) poor interview skills and b) poor "fit". Our partner mines are aware that our students have no experience in the industry, and are willing to give them a chance to gain the experience that most employers are looking for.

- **What books/materials do I need to buy?**

You will need CSA-approved, steel-toed work boots with eight-inchers and anti-skid grips in order to work on the simulators. There is one required textbook (\$80 as of March 2014). All other materials are supplied in class.

- **What is the expected annual income for a new Haul Truck Operator?**

The answer varies greatly depending on what company you work for, what kind of shift you work, whether you're unionized, how much experience and seniority you have, and how much overtime you work. We've heard anything

- **Do the employers provide accommodations/meals/travel allowance?**

At our partner mines, Haul Truck Operator is an entry-level position, and they do not provide accommodations, meals, or travel allowance to work term students. There are some employers that do have such arrangements, but they are generally looking for very experienced operators or skills that they cannot recruit locally. If you do not obtain a work term, or after your work term, you are free to apply anywhere and make whatever arrangements suit you, but for the time that you are a work term student, you must arrange your own local accommodations.

- **Are there any age restrictions?**

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You must be at least 18 years old to apply for the course. There is technically no upper age limit on the course, but you must realistically consider your physical condition and health, and the impact of shift work.

- **Are there accommodations for students at the College?**

Yes. Once you are accepted into the course, you may apply for Student Housing (<http://keyano.ca/continuing-ed/campus-services/student-housing>). You are eligible for Student Housing for the month that you are in class, and the three months of your work term work placement, should you obtain one.

Note that, even if your employment is extended past the three month work term, you are no longer considered a student, and are therefore no longer eligible to stay in Student Housing.

As well, if there is a gap between the end of your course and the start of your work term, you may stay in Student Housing, but your rent will increase to the non-student rate until your work term starts.

- **Is Haul Truck Operator a good career for women?**

Absolutely. About one-third of our students have been women, and the gender split for Haul Truck Operators in our partner mines is close to 50-50.