

# Parent Guide

## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

### How does it work?

Students take a bundle of 8 to 10 courses in Grades 11 and 12 including four "major" credits in their area of interest.

English, Mathematics, Science, or Business courses are specifically designed to complement the "majors."

Students take at least two co-op credits and get valuable experience related to their **SHSM**.

**The following is a list of all of the SHSM sectors:**

- Arts & Culture
- Business
- Construction
- Environment
- Forestry
- Health & Wellness
- Horticulture & Landscaping
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information & Communication Technology
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
  - Non-Profit
  - Sports

### What if...

**...after starting the program a student decides that this is not for them?**

All credits earned in an SHSM program count towards the completion of a standard Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Any certifications or training gained will hold a student in good stead for part-time jobs or work placements.

Co-op is a valuable experience, allowing a student to discover what they like doing and, just as importantly, what they don't like doing.



### What does the Red Seal Mean?

Employers and post-secondary institutions recognize that a student has participated in specialized, career focused programming.

Students enrolled in a SHSM program receive an additional transcript outlining their accomplishments.

### What are the advantages?

**SHSM students will:**

**HEAR** and **SEE** first hand what a career in their sector feels and looks like;

**DISCOVER** the relationship between school and careers;

**NETWORK** with post-secondary institutions, local industries, and businesses;

**GAIN** confidence in their ability to succeed;

**COMPLETE** industry recognized certifications and training;

**OPEN** doors for summer jobs and future employment;

**EARN** a **Red Seal** designation on their **OSSD**.



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## How to plan for SHSM

Plan ahead by encouraging your son or daughter to...

### GRADE 8

**Investigate** their interests and passions inside and outside of school.

**Use** *careercruising.com* to start their secondary school education plan.

**Attend** Grade 8 Information Nights to consult with teachers and counsellors.

### GRADE 9

**Enroll** in courses that align their interests, skills, and academic abilities.

**Review** and update their education plan on *careercruising.com*.

**Discuss** program options with teachers.

**Consult** with guidance counsellors to ensure they have the pre-requisite courses.

### GRADE 10

**Explore** opportunities in Career Studies course.

**Use** *careercruising.com* to align their post-secondary plans with their current secondary school education plan.

**Begin** the **SHSM** application process.

## Planning early will allow students to...

### GRADE 11

Begin **SHSM** programming.

Select appropriate Grade 12 **SHSM** courses.

### GRADE 12

Complete **SHSM** requirements.

**Apply** for post-secondary opportunities, including OYAP.

Achieve  
**OSSD &  
Red Seal  
designation**

For more information, please contact the Guidance or Co-operative Department in your local high school.

