

PARENT GUIDE

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

What is it and how does it work?

SHSM is a career exploration program.

Is your student interested in any of the following areas?

- Arts and Culture
- Business
- Construction
- Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information and Communications Technology
- Manufacturing
- Sports
- Transportation

Students in any high school and in all Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) pathways (apprenticeship, college, university, or workplace) can complete a bundle of 8-10 courses.

Students take a minimum of 2 Co-op credits and participate in valuable field trip and training experiences related to their SHSM.

English, Math, Business, Science or World Studies courses are included and are specifically designed to complement the “majors”.

SHSM programs vary from school to school. Contact the Guidance Department at your school for specific program offerings.

Try it out!

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 postsecondary 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.

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 OSSD.

Any certifications or training earned can be used on a resume or post-secondary application.

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



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How to Plan for SHSM

GRADE 8

- ▶ Attend Grade 8 information sessions at your local high school
- ▶ Use My Blueprint to start your high school course planning

GRADE 9

- ▶ Learn about school programs through school announcements, EDSBY, school social media, and by talking with teachers and guidance counsellors
- ▶ Continue to course plan using My Blueprint

GRADE 10

- ▶ Explore interests and program opportunities in your Grade 10 Careers Course
- ▶ Continue to course plan using My Blueprint and express interest in SHSM during Grade 11 course selections
- ▶ Plan for a minimum of 2 credits in Co-op in Grade 11 or 12

GRADE 11

- ▶ SHSM programming begins
- ▶ Participate in training, learn new skills, and earn certifications
- ▶ Meet community partners and explore careers related to the SHSM sector

GRADE 12

- ▶ Continue to complete SHSM requirements
- ▶ Apply for post-secondary opportunities and SHSM scholarships/bursaries where available
- ▶ Earn an additional seal on your OSSD diploma recognizing your additional skills and training
- ▶ Receive a transcript outlining your accomplishments

**Complete
SHSM and
receive a red seal
on your OSSD
diploma.**

***For more information please
contact the Guidance Department
at your local high school.***

