

# 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 4 "major" credits in their area of interest.

English, mathematics, science, or business courses are specifically designed to complement the "majors."

Students take at least 2 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

### 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** her interests and passions inside and outside of school.

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

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

### GRADE 9

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

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

**Discuss** program options with teachers.

**Consult** with guidance counsellors to ensure he has the pre-requisite courses.

### GRADE 10

**Explore** opportunities in Career Studies course.

**Use** *careercruising.com* to align her post-secondary plans with her 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.

