

# 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 sector.

**The following is a list of SHSM sectors offered at our KPR high schools** (contact guidance at your home school for specific program offerings):

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

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

# SHSM

Ontario.ca/SHSM



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**How to Plan for SHSM**  
*Plan ahead by encouraging your student to:*

## GRADE 8

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

**Use** MyBlueprint to start their secondary school education plan.

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

## GRADE 9

**Enroll** in courses that allow exploration of interests and skills.

**Review** and update their education plan on MyBlueprint.

**Discuss** program options with teachers.

**Consult** with guidance counsellors to ensure they have the prerequisite courses.

## GRADE 10

**Explore** opportunities in Career Studies course.

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

**Consider** cooperative education opportunities in grade 11 and/or 12

**Begin** the SHSM application process.

*Planning early will allow students to...*

## GRADE 11

Begin **SHSM** programming.

Earn certifications.

Participate in experiential learning opportunities.

Select appropriate Grade 12 SHSM courses.

If appropriate for student pathway, apply for accelerated OYAP.

## GRADE 12

Complete **SHSM** requirements.

**Apply** for post-secondary opportunities.

**Apply** for SHSM scholarships at applicable schools.

**Achieve  
OSSD &  
Red Seal  
designation**

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

