

# SHSM

## Specialist High Skills Major



### What is the SHSM?

The SHSM enables students to customize their high school experience to suit their interests and talents and prepare for a successful post secondary transition to apprenticeship training, college, university, or employment, while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The SHSM enables students to gain the sector-identified preparatory credits, skills and knowledge, and make informed career decisions. This makes the learning environment more engaging for students, focuses them on graduation and prepares them to pursue their career goals.

### Required Components:

- Bundled Credits: 8-10 credits including:
  - 4 “Major” credits in the chosen sector (i.e. Health& Wellness, Arts & Culture, Non Profit and Construction)
  - Supporting credits: English, Math, Science, Business/Canadian & World Studies and Cooperative education



- **Contextualized Learning Activities:** English, Math, Science, Business/Canadian World Studies and Religion include units for students to learn in the context of the sector they have chosen
- **Certifications and Awareness Training:** Sector-recognized certifications related to the major and selected from a list, including Standard First Aid, CPR Training, WHMIS, Service Excellence, Ethical Considerations and three electives specific to their sector.
- **Experiential Learning Opportunities:**
  - Job-shadowing, job-twinning, work experience
  - Minimum of 2 cooperative education credits linked to the major
  - Field trips, other workplace experiences for students to explore related careers
- **Ontario Skills Passport** used to document essential skills and work habits
- **Reach Ahead Experiences:** in the field and sectors considered as a post-secondary destination, ranging from a few hours to full courses (dual credit programs)
- **Pathway to any of the four post-secondary destinations:** students can complete the SHSM program to prepare them for apprenticeship, college, university or work



### Benefits for Students:

For high school students, choosing their post-secondary destination is a critical decision point. Various kinds of work experiences better prepare students to make the transition from high school to work, apprenticeship, college and university.

**Contact Mrs. H. Ivinac, Guidance Counsellor  
In Student Services for more details!**