

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR PROGRAMS

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 courses and get valuable experience related to their **SHSM**.

What if...

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

All credits earned in an **SHSM** program count towards the completion of a standard OSSD.

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 post-secondary institutions, local industries, and businesses;

GAIN confidence in their ability to succeed;

COMPLETE industry recognized certifications and training;

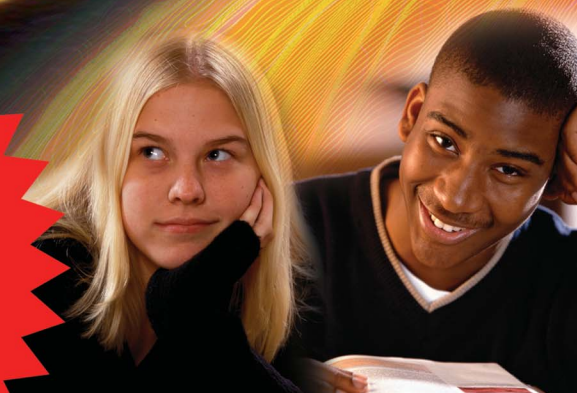
OPEN doors for summer jobs and future employment;

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

What does the Red Seal mean?

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

SHSM students receive an **additional transcript** outlining their accomplishments.



How to plan for SHSM

Encourage your son or daughter to plan ahead by...

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GRADE 8

Investigating their interests and passions inside and outside of school.

Thinking about what they are good at.

Chatting with friends and family members about jobs they do.

Attending grade 8 Information Nights to consult with teachers and counsellors.

GRADE 9

Enrolling in courses that align interests, skills, and academic abilities.

Considering courses that will broaden their experiences.

Discussing program options with teachers.

Consulting with guidance counsellors to ensure they have pre-requisite courses.

GRADE 10

Exploring opportunities in Career Studies course.

Focusing on what they want to try rather than puzzling over what they want to be.

Checking out career exploration websites.

Beginning 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.

Achieve **OSSD & Red Seal** designation



For more information, please contact the guidance or co-op department in your local high school.

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

