



Specialized Programs @ Aurora High School

STUDENT SUCCESS

Every student coming into high school has individual strengths and needs. The Student Success Team at Aurora High School is here to ensure that all students are successful and achieve their full potential. The Student Success Team primarily works with students who are experiencing difficulty, but are not receiving assistance from the Student Services Department. The Student Success Team may involve teachers, parents, administration, school board personnel and community agencies in order to best meet individual student needs.

We have a Student Success resource room where students can find a quiet place to work with support from the Student Success Team. Some examples of the assistance provided by the team include: transition planning, monitoring, early intervention, credit salvaging, and credit recovery. In addition, the Student Success Team assists in developing a student's learning skills, including: organizational habits, the use of graphic organizers, goal setting, time management, and stress reduction.

For more information please contact Mr. Green or Ms. Ludlow at 905-727-3107 ext. 334.

STUDENT SERVICES

Students identified through the IPRC process receive one of the following four levels of support:

1. **Withdrawal Assistance** requires students to enroll in Learning Strategies [GLE1O1]. This is a credit course where students learn skills necessary for success in high school and learn to apply these skills to other subject areas. The Learning Strategies teacher is the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) who is responsible for the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and provides support to students and classroom teachers throughout the school year.
2. Students placed in **Resource Assistance** do not enroll in Learning Strategies, but receive support from their SERT who is also responsible for the student's IEP.
3. Students placed in **Indirect Service** have an IEP prepared by a SERT who consults with classroom teachers to assist them in implementing the student's IEP.
4. At Aurora High we have five **Community Class** programs where students learn in areas determined by their IEP. Depending on the program, students may enroll in some credit and non-credit bearing courses. Some programs focus on building skills for life after high school.

For more information please contact Ms. Korp, Head of Student Services at 905-727-3107 ext. 172.

SHSM

Aurora High School currently offers **five** Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs: **Arts & Culture, Business, Construction, Health & Wellness, and Transportation**. SHSM is a specialized program which allows students in Grades 11 & 12 to experience a range of customized, career-focused learning opportunities while students work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students have the opportunity to customize their high school experience, explore new ways of learning and 'reach ahead' to their post-secondary destination of choice (apprenticeship, college, university, or the workplace). To reinforce student career interests, all SHSM students participate in a co-op placement. SHSM students earn extra recognition among high school graduates with a red seal distinction on their Diploma.

For more information, please contact the Community-Based Education or the Guidance departments.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Co-op is educational programming that integrates classroom theory with practical experience in the workplace. Programming is based on a partnership between the school and a business or community organization. It involves the participation of student, teacher and the placement supervisor. This is a credit-earning program; Co-op is available for Grade 11 & 12 students, and may be taken as a 2 credit (half day) or 4 credit (full day) package. Other opportunities available through Co-operative Education include: summer Co-op, OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program), and the Militia Co-op (with the Canadian Armed Forces).

For more information please contact Mrs. Ashby, Head of Community-Based Education at 905-727-3107 ext. 263.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Aurora High School offers an Alternative Education Program for students who are two or three semesters away from graduation and are looking for an alternate pathway to graduation. We offer a variety of in-school classes for both compulsory college credits (e.g. English) and elective credits. Interested in learning more about this alternative pathway to graduation?

Please contact Mr. Cathcart, Head of Personalized Alternative Education at 905-727-3107 ext. 249.

What do you need to graduate with an OSSD?

19 Compulsory Credits

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

- 4 credits in English*
- 3 credits in mathematics
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in Canadian history
- 1 credit in Canadian geography
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in career studies
- 0.5 credit in civics
- 1.0 credit in technological education
(for students entering Grade 9 in September 2024)



Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

Group 1

1 additional credit in English, or French as a Second Language**, or an International Language, or Social Science and the Humanities or Canadian and World Studies, or Guidance and Career Education, or Co-operative Education***.

Group 2

1 additional credit in Health and Physical Education, or the Arts, or Business Studies or French as a Second Language** or Co-operative Education***.

Group 3

1 additional credit in Science or Computer Studies or Technological Education or French as a Second Language** or Co-operative Education***.

In addition, students must complete:

- ✓ 11 optional credits****
- ✓ 40 hours of community involvement
- ✓ the provincial literacy requirement
- ✓ 2 online (asynchronous) course **OR** an opt out from online learning

* a maximum of 3 credits in English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

** a maximum of 2 credits in French as a Second Language (FSL) can count as compulsory credits. One from group one; one from either group 2 or 3 (not both).

*** a maximum of 2 credits in Co-operative Education can count as compulsory credits.

**** may include up to four credits achieved through Dual Credits

Community Involvement—Volunteerism

All Grade 9 - 12 students must complete a minimum of **40 hours** of community involvement activities in order to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. A helpful hint is to complete at least 10 hours per year. Hours may begin to accumulate during the summer after grade 8.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

In the spring of grade ten, all students **write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**. This is a requirement for graduation. The test includes several reading and writing tasks. To prepare our students at Aurora High School, we have them practice literacy activities, participate in after school programs, and complete specifically targeted skill development in various grade ten classes.

Online Requirement —two credits or opt-out

All students must earn **two online learning credits** that have been authorized by the school. *Or*, students may choose to opt-out of this requirement before high school graduation.

Assessment/Evaluation of Student Achievement

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Information gathered through assessment helps teachers to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses in their achievement of the curriculum expectations in each course.

Assessment is the process of gathering information from a variety of sources (including assignments, demonstrations, projects, performances, and tests) that accurately reflects how well a student is achieving the curriculum expectations in a course. As part of assessment, teachers provide students with descriptive feedback that guides their efforts towards improvement.

Evaluation refers to the process of determining the quality of student work on the basis of established criteria, and assigning a value to represent that quality. In Ontario secondary schools, the value assigned will be in the form of a percentage grade or level.

Student Academic Achievement is organized into the four broad categories: Knowledge/Understanding, Thinking/Inquiry, Communication, and Application. Student achievement is calculated through course work (70%) and summative tasks (30%), which may include exams, performance tasks, demonstrations, projects and/or essays.