



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

## VOLUME 12

March 7  
2025

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## Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing March Break!

**March 10 –14 School Closed**

#### COURSE VERIFICATIONS

The course verification process will be emailed out after March Break. Please ensure that your child is checking their gapps account daily as there will be a quick turnaround time.

**Once this opportunity to request a change has passed, NO course changes will be made going forward until the new academic year starts (September 2025).**

If you have any questions, please reach out to your alpha counsellor.

#### SUMMER SCHOOL / E-LEARNING SUMMER SCHOOL

We recognize that there have been many inquiries about summer school courses for 2025. Summer school registration will open on myBlueprint toward the end of March/beginning of April. More details to follow when they become available.

Once registration opens we will share the available course options, the process for registering for courses and if necessary, the process for replacing a course in your child's course selections for next school year as a result of a summer school registration.

### Community Involvement

**Planning to graduate in June 2025?** There are still over **100** grade 12 students with outstanding volunteer hours. If you have your hours at home or in your backpack, please submit them as we want to ensure they are valid. Each grade 12 student with outstanding hours should have received a memo in their homeroom classes on Monday, March 3. The March break is a perfect time to get those hours if you haven't done so already! We have opportunities posted in the Guidance office, please drop by for further information.

Please check our guidance website for updates:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/markhamdistrict.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>



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## Mental Health Awareness

If you have an immediate concern and you feel that your child is in crisis, please contact one of the following links or phone numbers.:

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673),
- <https://www.yssn.ca/> - available 24/7
- KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 — <https://kidshelpphone.ca> - available 24/7
- call 911 if immediate assistance is required.

## Guidance Google Classroom

Join our **MDHS Guidance Google Classroom** for all information guidance related: university, college, apprenticeship information, volunteer opportunities, mental health supports and much more.

Join with this code: **g7d6eud**

## Scholarship Report

The latest edition of the scholarship report can be found by copying the link below.

Please take a few minutes to read through the report. If the PDF requires a password: **scholar678**

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:c53977b3-7cbd-465e-84ba-27f4d835f10c>

## SHSM Field Trips

**When:** March 25, 2025  
**Where:** Durham College (Leaving at 8:30 am – returning approximately 2:30 pm)  
**How many:** 30-40  
**Sectors:** Construction, Horticulture & Landscape, Transportation  
**What:** Reach Ahead and Experiential Learning (potentially)

**When:** March 28, 2025  
**Where:** Part 1: completed on line. Part 2: Markham District HS (all day in the library)  
**Sectors:** All sectors  
**How many:** All SHSM needing to complete their training  
**What:** Compulsory certifications - Standard First Aid/CPR-C

**Part 1:** Once students have submitted the permission form to guidance, **they will receive a link to complete the online portion of the training in 2-3 weeks** (approximately 6 hours to complete but does not have to be done all at one time). This should be completed before March 28th.

**Part 2: March 28: Complete the in-person portion of the training (full day) in the MDHS library**



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## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Apply to SHSM: <https://bit.ly@YRDSBSHSMStudentapp>

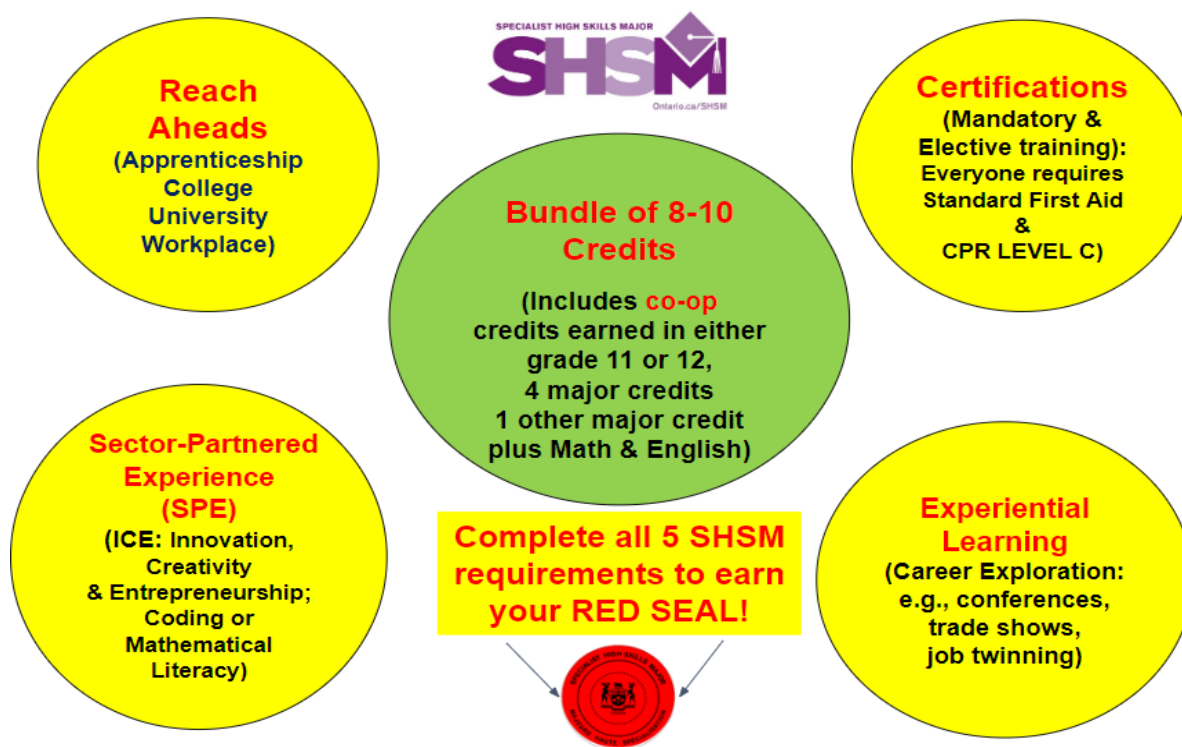
Students will receive a PDF once the application has been submitted. **Please print, and complete including with parent/guardian signatures and submit to Guidance.**

### Why consider the Specialist High Skills Major program (SHSM)?

- ◆ Focus on a career path to match skills /interests, meeting Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements
- ◆ Students **must** take cooperative education in grade 11 or 12 to be eligible.
- ◆ 2-year program for students entering grade 11 (students may register if entering grade 12 and plan on completing coop.)
- ◆ Customize secondary school education to suit interests and skills
- ◆ Complete sector recognized certifications (including Standard First Aid/CPR-C)
- ◆ Prepare for post-secondary opportunities
- ◆ Earn the SHSM Distinction on the OSSD
- ◆ Engage in fun, experiential learning with like-minded peers
- ◆ Participation in training and field trips is **free for SHSM students.**



## Specialist High Skills Major: **5** Required Components





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## Ontario College Spring 2025 Open House Schedule

[ontariocolleges.ca](https://ontariocolleges.ca): Search programs by category or college.

Note: For those colleges that do not have an Open House scheduled for the spring, there is a link to more information.

<a href="#">Algonquin—Ottawa Campus</a> : March 29.	<a href="#">Mohawk—Centre for Aviation Technology</a> : April 10.
<a href="#">Algonquin—Pembroke Campus</a> : March 15.	<a href="#">Mohawk—Fennell Campus</a> : April 5.
<a href="#">Algonquin—Perth Campus</a> : April 24.	<a href="#">Mohawk—Institute for Applied Health Sciences</a> : April 9.
<a href="#">Cambrian</a> : April 5.	<a href="#">Mohawk—Stoney Creek Campus for Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship</a> : April 5.
<a href="#">Canadore</a> : April 5.	<a href="#">Niagara</a> : March 29.
<a href="#">Centennial</a> : April 26.	<a href="#">Northern</a> : April 5.
<a href="#">Conestoga</a> : March 1.	<a href="#">Sault</a> : April 5.
<a href="#">Durham—Oshawa &amp; Whitby Campuses</a> : April 12.	<a href="#">Seneca</a> : April 12.
<a href="#">Fanshawe</a> : March 29.	<a href="#">Sheridan—Davis (Brampton) &amp; Hazel McCallion (Mississauga) Campuses</a> : March 22.
<a href="#">Fleming</a> : March 22.	<a href="#">Sheridan—Trafalgar Road (Oakville) Campus</a> : March 23.
<a href="#">George Brown</a> : April 5.	<a href="#">St. Clair—Main Windsor &amp; Chatham Campuses</a> : March 22.
<a href="#">Georgian</a> : Get to Know Georgian: March 18	<a href="#">St. Lawrence—Brockville &amp; Cornwall Campuses</a> : April 5.
<a href="#">Humber</a> : April 12.	<a href="#">St. Lawrence—Kingston Campus</a> : April 12.
<a href="#">Lambton</a> : March 22.	<a href="#">University of Guelph—Ridgetown</a> : March 22.
<a href="#">Loyalist</a> : April 5.	<a href="#">University of Guelph—Ridgetown: REACH-HURON in Clinton (Equine Open House)</a> : March 29.



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## Ontario University Spring 2025



Note: For those universities that do not have an Open House scheduled for the spring, there is a link to more information.

<u><a href="#">Algoma—Brampton</a></u> : March 8.	<u><a href="#">Toronto—Mississauga</a></u> : March 30.
<u><a href="#">Algoma—Sault Ste. Marie</a></u> : March 29.	<u><a href="#">Toronto—Scarborough</a></u> : March 22.
<u><a href="#">Carleton</a></u> : March 8.	<u><a href="#">Toronto—St. George</a></u> : Various dates.
<u><a href="#">Université de l'Ontario français</a></u> : More information <u><a href="#">here</a></u> .	<u><a href="#">Toronto Metropolitan</a></u> : March 29.
<u><a href="#">Guelph</a></u> : March 23.	<u><a href="#">Trent—Durham GTA</a></u> : March 1.
<u><a href="#">Guelph—Humber</a></u> : March 23.	<u><a href="#">Trent—Peterborough</a></u> : March 14.
<u><a href="#">Hearst</a></u> : More information <u><a href="#">here</a></u> .	<u><a href="#">Waterloo</a></u> (including <u><a href="#">Conrad Grebel</a></u> , <u><a href="#">Renison</a></u> , <u><a href="#">St. Jerome's</a></u> and <u><a href="#">United Colleges</a></u> ): March 22.
<u><a href="#">Lakehead—Orillia &amp; Thunder Bay</a></u> : March 14.	<u><a href="#">Western</a></u> : March 22.
<u><a href="#">Laurentian</a></u> : March 15.	<u><a href="#">Western—Huron</a></u> : March 22.
<u><a href="#">McMaster</a></u> : May 10.	<u><a href="#">Western—King's</a></u> : March 22.
<u><a href="#">Nipissing</a></u> : March 8.	<u><a href="#">Wilfrid Laurier—Brantford</a></u> : March 15.
<u><a href="#">OCAD (Ontario College of Art &amp; Design)</a></u> : More information <u><a href="#">here</a></u> .	<u><a href="#">Wilfrid Laurier—Milton</a></u> : April 5.
<u><a href="#">Ontario Tech</a></u> : March 29.	<u><a href="#">Wilfrid Laurier—Waterloo</a></u> : March 8.
<u><a href="#">Ottawa</a></u> : March 22.	<u><a href="#">Windsor</a></u> : April 5; Virtual: May 15.
<u><a href="#">Ottawa—Saint Paul</a></u> : More information <u><a href="#">here</a></u> .	<u><a href="#">York</a></u> : March 15.
<u><a href="#">Queen's</a></u> : March 8.	<u><a href="#">York—Glendon</a></u> : March 29.
<u><a href="#">Royal Military College of Canada</a></u> : More information <u><a href="#">here</a></u> .	<u><a href="#">York—Markham</a></u> : April 5.