



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

VOLUME

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CONTACT US

905-294-1886
Guidance x 515

markham.dhs@yrdsb.ca

DEPARTMENT HEAD
Gabrielle McGill (A—Hs)
gabrielle.mcgill@yrdsb.ca

COUNSELLORS

Jim Buie (Hu—Mo)
james.buie@yrdsb.ca

Marc Weinstein (Mu—So)
marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca

Anna Flikas (Sr—Z)
anna.flikas@yrdsb.ca

APPOINTMENTS

Please note that from Thursday, January 25th (first day of exams) until the first day of Semester 2 Guidance Counsellors will be operating on a **drop in basis**.

Students will not be able to book appointments using TeachAssist during this time.

Regular appointment bookings will resume once Semester 2 begins.

**Semester 2 changes will continue to happen until late January.
Once semester 2 starts, NO further changes will be made to timetables.**

Note: Semester 2 timetables will be sent to students' gapps accounts the week of January 29, 2024.



OUAC application deadline — January 15, 2024

**OCAS application deadline — February 1, 2024
(for equal consideration)**

Night School On-Line course registration is open from December 18th to February 14th.

Students who registered early have received an email to indicate that they are NOT registered yet and need to register starting December 18th.

Important Upcoming Dates!

First Semester Exams —	January 25, 2024 — January 31, 2024
PA Day (no classes) —	Friday, February 2, 2024
Second Semester Start Date —	Monday, February 5, 2024





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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.

Post-Secondary Information

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

SCHULICH LEADERS Scholarship— Due: January 16th, 2024 (2:50pm)

Deadline for application to be received in Guidance (for school sponsorship consideration).
All details have been posted on the Scholarship Google Classroom.

COURSES OUTSIDE OF YRDSB

It is the responsibility of non-YRDSB schools (ie. private schools) to enter their course code and midterm mark on OUAC and OCAS. Graduating students are reminded to ensure their OCAS and OUAC accounts are accurate. Please book an appointment with your alpha counsellor if there are any questions or concerns with your OCAS or OUAC account.

Graduating Students are encouraged to join our Google Classrooms:

Scholarship Classroom = [mzcxprd](#)

University Application Google Classroom = [e5gz2ra](#)

College Application Google Classroom = [qsyzgyr](#)

Community Involvement/Volunteering

The community involvement graduation requirement is a minimum of **40 hours**.

The ministry is updating the Community Involvement Graduation Requirement policy. Community involvement is an important educational opportunity that allows students to develop skills and gain experiences to become successful and contributing members of society now and in the future.

Therefore, there will no longer be any hours granted for paid work or for hours done in the home.



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Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

APPLY TO SHSM: bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp



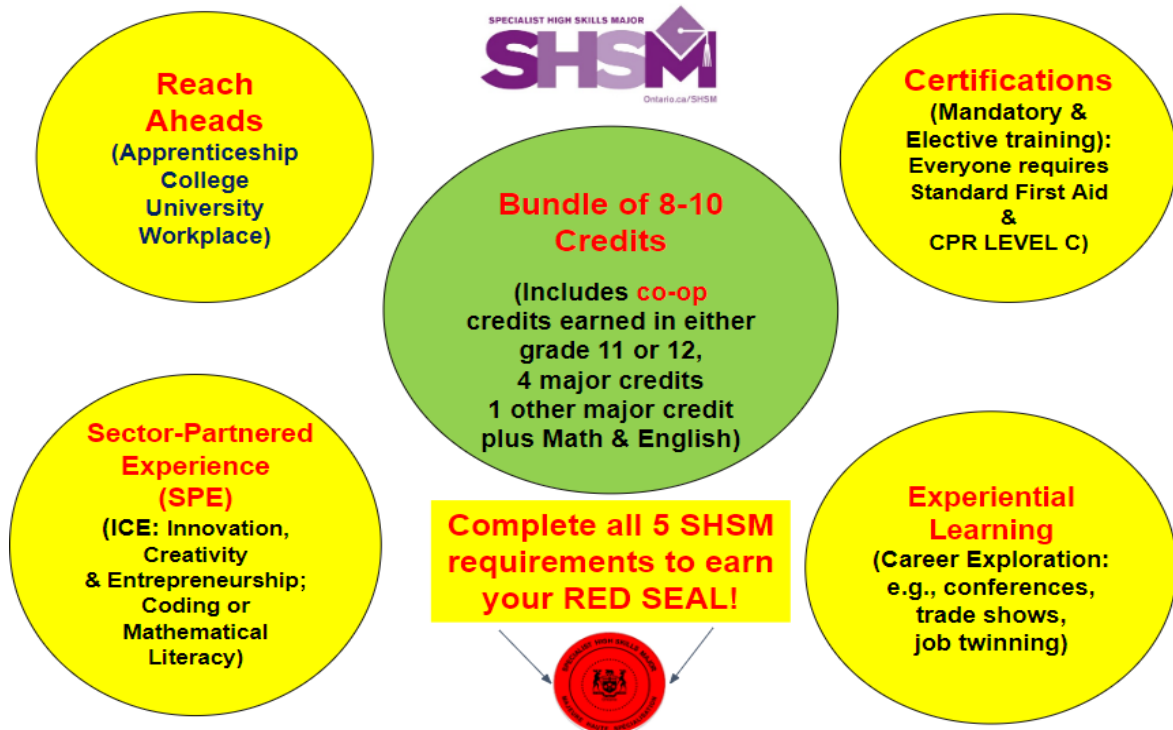
What is SHSM?

A Specialist High Skills Major lets students focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Why consider SHSM?

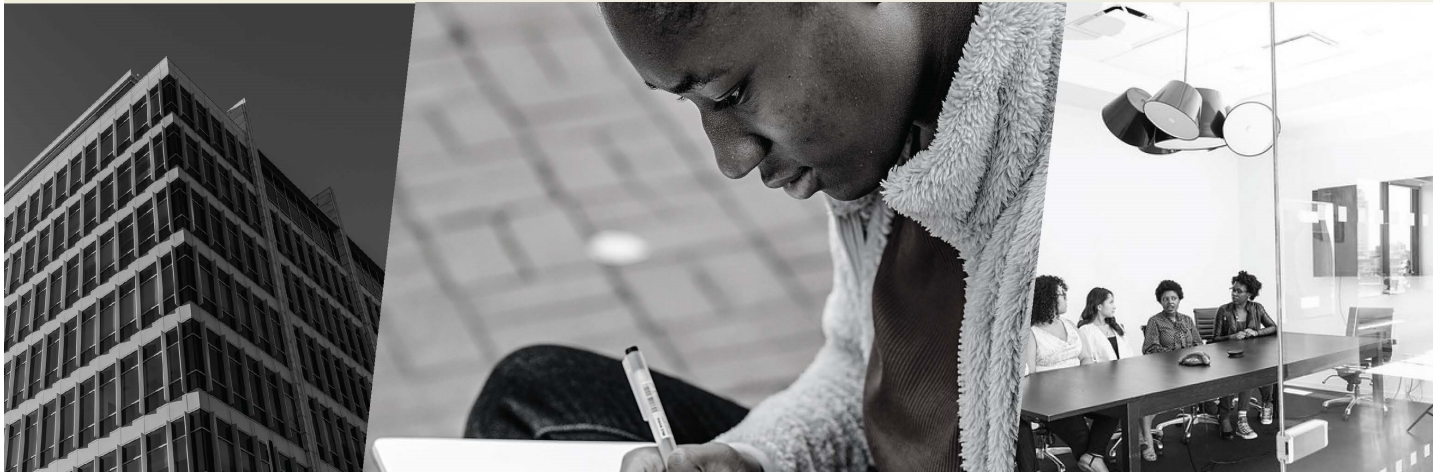
- ◆ Customize secondary school education to suit interests and skills
- ◆ Complete sector recognized certifications to build your resume
- ◆ Prepare for post-secondary opportunities
- ◆ Explore and refine career goals
- ◆ Earn the SHSM Distinction on their OSSD
- ◆ Engage in fun, experiential learning with like-minded peers
- ◆ Participation in the training and field trips is **free**.

Specialist High Skills Major: 5 Required Components



YRDSB Curriculum & Instructional Services in collaboration
with Centre for Black Excellence presents

BLACK EXCELLENCE: ENTREPRENEURSHIP CO-OP



A Cooperative Education program is being offered in partnership with the **Black Entrepreneurship Alliance (BEA)** and **YSpace Markham**. Black students from York Region District School Board will have the opportunity to participate in one of the Entrepreneurship Co-op Streams, and use their skills and experience to start their own business.

WHAT?

VENTURE CATALYST STREAM

Students in this stream will gain exposure to a curated founder training program that covers education topics such as business modelling, sales & marketing 101, and much more. Students are also paired with Black entrepreneurs in the Venture Catalyst program at YSpace that is designed to support early-stage development of technology startups.

BEA TALENT ACCELERATOR STREAM

Students in the Talent Accelerator stream may have the opportunity to engage with the Black Entrepreneurship Alliance team. These students will get direct experience and knowledge on the intricacies of supporting a business accelerator program and gain skills to apply on their own business ventures.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT

All students in the Black Excellence: Entrepreneurship Co-op program will have access to the Entrepreneurship Grant to develop specific skills related to planning, funding, starting, and running a business or social enterprise (e.g., negotiation, risk assessment, networking, interpersonal skills, money management, leadership and sales). Students will be provided with seed funding for the materials they need to successfully launch their business. Students will also have an opportunity to pitch and showcase their business ideas at the York Regional Entrepreneurship Showcase event.

WHO?

Grade 11 and 12 Black students from York Region District School Board

WHEN?

Semester 2
February 2024 to June 2024

HOW?

For more information, please speak to the Guidance or Co-op department at your school.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
The Office of Access and Outreach,
oao.outreach@utoronto.ca or visit us online at
www.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/summer-mentorship-program

 **TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE**
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



**SUMMER
MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM**



The Summer Mentorship Program (SMP) gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over four weeks in July.

You will:

- Explore health science education and careers through hands-on activities, experiments, lectures, and special projects
- Learn from and connect to a variety of health science faculty, professionals, and students
- Enjoy valuable mentoring experiences from a variety of professionals
- Earn a credit you can use on your University and/or College applications

www.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/summer-mentorship-program

WHAT YOU LEARN

If you participate in the program, you'll gain some of the skills you need to further your academic and professional career. You'll get to try your hand at a variety of health science professions, including medicine, dentistry, kinesiology, medical radiation sciences, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and social work. You'll need to complete various exercises and assignments with your teacher during the four-week program.

You'll also be connected to a student-mentor who is studying in a health science field of interest to you. You'll meet the mentors at the beginning of the program, and you'll be encouraged to keep up this relationship once the program is completed. You'll also be able to connect with and learn from various health professionals to give you deeper insight into a variety of health science careers.

We want to provide you with the skills you need to be a successful student and professional. The health sciences are a broad field with a vast range of career opportunities and we're here to help you find a career that's right for you.

WHAT YOU EARN

Students who attend a provincially funded Ontario school can earn a credit in Science, Grade 12 University/College Preparation (SNC4M). That's a credit that will be applied to your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). To be eligible, you must be 16 years of age by June 30. You must have completed a Grade 10 Science, Academic or any Grade 11 university (U), university/college (M), or college (C) preparation course in the science curriculum. Preference will be given to grade 11 students that are returning to school for at least one semester.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

The Office of Access and Outreach.
oao.outreach@utoronto.ca or visit us online at
www.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/summer-mentorship-program

SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

DEADLINES

There are two deadlines for the Summer Mentorship Program. Space is limited, so we encourage applicants to apply as early as possible.

January 12, 2024

First application deadline

January 15 - 19, 2024

Email sent to arrange for interviews

February 10 - 11, 2024

First round interviews

February 13 - 20, 2024

Offers emailed to first round applicants

March 22, 2024

Final application deadline

March 25 - 29, 2024

Email sent to arrange for interviews

April 13, 14 and 20, 2024

Second round interviews

April 22 - 26, 2024

Offers emailed to applicants

July 2 - 26, 2024

Summer Mentorship Program Period

Application available at

www.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca / summer-mentorship-program



HISTORY OF SMP

The SMP was founded in 1994 by the Faculty of Medicine and the Toronto District School Board, together with the Association for the Advancement of Blacks in the Health Sciences. The program was created to help address concerns about the under-representation of Black and Indigenous people within the health sciences. The key individuals who contributed significantly to establish the SMP were Dr. Miriam Rossi, Dr. Dominick Shelton, Diana Alli, Harold Braithwaite, Gerry Connelly, Dr. Kristine Whitehead, Fred Chan and Kelvin Andrews.

In running the SMP, we work with the faculties of Dentistry, Kinesiology and Physical Education, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Social Work, the Office of Indigenous Medical Education, First Nations House, Black Physicians Association of Ontario, several school boards in the Greater Toronto Area, including TDSB, TCDSB, YRDSB, and DPCDSB, and Indigenous communities outside of Toronto.

Over 28 years, the SMP has had more than 1400 students complete the program – and many of those students have since entered professional faculties and health care professions. Every year, we invite more than 100 students to participate in the four-week program. In 2023, we aim to run the SMP in-person at the U of T St. George campus. In an effort to address the under-representation of Black men and Indigenous people in the health sciences, we highly encourage these two groups to apply to the program.