

PATHWAYS PLANNING AT THORNHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

TSS Guidance Counsellors

Mr. Belman (A-Gh)

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Course selections require planning and support!

- ❖ Choose wisely! Do some honest self-assessment. Know your strengths, limitations and interests
- ❖ Seek advice from teachers, guidance and parents/guardians
- ❖ Remember that there are many pathways to the destination of your dreams...thoroughly research post-secondary program requirements

HOW TO GET TO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO...

Pathway Planning:

Gr.9 and Gr.10 Pathways 1

College Diploma Pathway 2

University or College Degree Pathway 3

Apprenticeship & Workplace Pathway 4

More information is posted on the TSS website.
www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornhill.ss. Click on **Guidance**

Applied, Academic and Locally Developed Courses: Grade 9 and Grade 10

APPLIED COURSES:

Applied courses focus on the essential concepts of the discipline. Applied courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of essential concepts of the course and incorporating theoretical applications as appropriate. Applied courses are more teacher directed and curriculum is delivered in smaller 'chunks' with the majority of work completed in class.

ACADEMIC COURSES:

Academic courses focus on the essential concepts of the discipline and also explore related concepts. Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical, abstract applications of the essential concepts of the course and incorporating practical applications as appropriate. Academic courses have more student initiated activities and the curriculum is delivered at a quicker pace requiring work outside of the class.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES:

Locally Developed courses have been developed to meet the educational needs of students whose skills fall below grade level. It is a guided approach to learning using practical examples and concrete objects. Each student's strengths and needs will determine appropriate pathways through secondary school and in the school-to-work transition.

Choose courses wisely because the master timetable at TSS will be created based on your requests!

Preparing for the College Diploma Pathway

- The most commonly required courses for admission to College Diploma Programs are Grade 12 English (ENG4C), Grade 12 Math (MAP4C) and Grade 11 or 12 Sciences (SBI3C, SCH4C, SPH4C)
- Carefully check Math requirements! Some college programs require/prefer Grade 12 Mathematics for College Technology (MCT4C) for which the prerequisite is MCF3M (not MBF3C)...some programs require MCF3M or MCR3U only
- College admission requirements can vary a great deal from college to college, even when the program titles are the same
- Most college diploma programs require college (C) preparation courses to meet specific course admission requirements
- Research every college program you are considering to ensure you meet their specific admission requirements

www.ontariocolleges.ca

Consider taking a dual credit in your grade 11 or grade 12 year

DUAL CREDITS

Dual Credit courses are for **Grade 11 & 12** students who have an opportunity to earn credits towards their OSSD through courses delivered by publicly funded colleges in Ontario.

Dual Credits are ministry approved courses that allow students (while they are still in secondary school), to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a Post Secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification.

SHSM and OYAP students may also receive some industry-specific certifications in Dual Credit courses.

Students may earn up to four optional credits through college-delivered courses.

Book an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor to learn more about Dual Credit Options.

Course Selection Tips for the College Pathway

- ✓ students entering Grade 11 must select 8 courses
- ✓ students entering Grade 12 should sign up for a full timetable (8 courses)...it is usually easier to drop a course than it is to add one
- ✓ take college program prerequisite courses at the college (C) level
- ✓ try to ensure the majority of your senior credits are not open (O) and workplace (E)
- ✓ if your college program (e.g. social work) requires documented experience, take Cooperative Education courses
- ✓ take college program prerequisite courses at the college (C) level whenever possible (e.g. take ENG4C rather than ENG4U), unless
 - I. Your college program factors in a grade differential weighting when making admissions decisions (note: the majority of colleges do not do this)
 - or
 - II. You are confident you can achieve an equal or better final mark in the U or M course
- ✓ take courses for which you have the prerequisite credit as well as the academic preparation!
- ✓ consider a dual credit

Preparing for the University or College Bachelor's Degree Pathway

- University admission requires a minimum of six grade 12U and/or grade 12M courses (the # of accepted M courses depends on the university and program)
- Universities do not consider grade 12 C (college), O (open), E (workplace) or co-op courses for admissions
- Check specific requirements for each university program
- Science program requirements vary greatly depending on the university
- If you wish to apply to a Bachelor's Degree program at college you must meet university admission requirements
- If you wish to apply to a joint college-university program (e.g. Nursing) you must meet university admission requirements
- When researching university programs consider the following: admissions averages, cut-off marks and program enrollment numbers, additional admission criteria

Note: universities may consider Gr.11 (U and M) courses for early conditional admission offers

www.electronicinfo.ca

www.ouac.on.ca/resources

www.degreesindemand.ca

www.ontariocolleges.ca

Course Selection Tips for the University or College Bachelor's Degree Pathway

- ✓ students entering grade 11 must sign up for 8 courses next year
- ✓ students entering grade 12 are recommended to sign up for 8 courses next year...it is recommended that you have at least 7 grade 12U and M courses
- ✓ 12 U English is a requirement for all university degree and college degree programs
- ✓ select social science courses in addition to math and science in case you change your program choice
- ✓ select only **one** IDC 4U course, as only one will be considered a credit for university
- ✓ consider attending Spring Open Houses at the universities and colleges which are often held over the March Break
- ✓ take courses for which you have not only the prerequisites but also the academic preparation

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

HEALTH & WELLNESS

What is it?

SHSM is a two year program designed to help students develop specialized skills in various careers related to health and wellness.

Who is it for?

Grade 11 & 12 students in any pathway who are interested in exploring a field of study related to Health and Wellness.

Examples: *Doctor of Medicine, Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician, Physical or Occupational Therapist, Registered or Practical Nurse, Dietitian, Dentist, Teacher Paramedic, Massage Therapist, Fitness Leader, X-Ray Technician, Health and Food Inspector, Early Childhood Educator, Child and Youth Worker, Hospital Worker*

NEW! SPORTS SHSM

Who is it for?

Grade 11 & 12 students in any pathway who are interested in exploring a field of study related to the sports sector.

Examples: *Special Events Coordinator, Recreation Sports and Fitness Program and Service Director, Recreation Facility Manager, Sports Announcer/Broadcaster/Photographer/ Fashion Designer, Coach, Fitness/Sports Instructor, Recreation/Sports Consultant, Sports Author/Writer/ Journalist, Media Producer, Public Relations and Communications, Sports and Recreation Guide, Officials and Referees, Sports Retailer, Sports Agent/Lawyer, Sports Marketing/Finance*

Why should students consider SHSM?

Students earn a Red Seal certification upon graduation.

This additional qualification is recognized by Colleges and Universities across the province.

Helps students understand more about a field of study they are interested in pursuing.

For further information, please speak to Mrs. Waller.

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is a proven hands-on training program for people who enjoy "learning by doing" and who want to work in a skilled trade. About 90 per cent of apprenticeship training is provided in the workplace by employers. The remainder involves theoretical classroom instruction, which is usually given at a local community college, or provided through another approved training organization. Apprentices receive training while they earn a wage. The length of time that is required to complete an apprenticeship varies from trade to trade.

Accelerated Apprenticeship (OYAP)

Students can earn high school credits, register as an apprentice, complete part or all of the "Level One" apprenticeship schooling in a

specific trade and earn hours towards their apprenticeship training. YRDSB currently offers Level 1 Apprenticeship Programs for: Auto Service Technician, General Carpenter, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems Mechanics, Cook, Electrician: Construction and Maintenance, Plumber and Child Development Practitioner Apprenticeship Program. Individuals are to find an employer willing to sign them on as an Apprentice. Having prior experience through a co-op placement or summer employment could assist in securing an apprenticeship.

For more information about apprenticeships in Ontario please visit...

www.edu.gov.on.ca/skills

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/oyap

www.apprenticesearch.com

Course Selection Tips

- ✓ Strong math skills are required for some of the skilled trades (e.g. electrical, automotive service technician)
- ✓ If there is a skilled trade you are interested in, you should investigate co-op opportunities (i.e. construction sector may require you to consider a 4 credit co-op in grade 11 in order to participate in the accelerated OYAP program, second semester grade 12)

Co-op Opportunities

For all four of the pathways discussed in this guide, consider a Co-op Program to help get you there. Career exploration benefits everyone, whether applying to college, university, an apprenticeship or heading straight to the workplace. Consider the many reasons for participating in a co-op program:

- Gives students an edge over others
- Confirms career choices
- Builds a network of career-related references
- Helps develop career focused essential skills
- Could end up with a part-time or full-time job

For further information on all four pathways opportunities gained through co-op, please speak with Mrs. Patterson.

Workplace

[Employment+and+Financial+Support/resource_centres.htm](#)

School-to-work Transition Programs

These are specialized programs that prepare students for employment or self-employment. These programs include both in-school and work-based experiences, including work experience, cooperative education, and in-depth skills training, and require the involvement of employers in their development and delivery. These programs may provide advanced standing or additional certification for students in apprenticeship and skills certification programs.

Finding Employment

Three of the most important steps in moving towards a successful future career are:

- ❖ knowing where you want to go;
- ❖ knowing who you are and what your skills and abilities are, and;
- ❖ knowing where to find the jobs that are available.

The following resources provide a good overview of the career planning process.

www.careercruising.com

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/prospects/index.html

www.york.ca/Departments/Community+Services+and+Housing/