



Welcome to

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS (SHSM)

What are SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS (SHSM)?

The **SHSM** is a specialized, ministry-approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

SHSMs assist students in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

These programs enable students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in engaging, career-related learning environments, and to prepare in a focused way for graduation and postsecondary education, training, or employment.



6 KEY BENEFITS for STUDENTS



- 1 Customize their secondary school education to suit their interests and talents;
- 2 Develop specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector and postsecondary education institutions;
- 3 Earn credits that are recognized by the sector and postsecondary education institutions;
- 4 Gain sector-specific and career-relevant certification and training;
- 5 Develop essential skills and work habits that are valued by the sector;
- 6 Identify, explore, and refine their career goals and make informed decisions about their postsecondary destination.

HOW DO I ENROLL?



- Contact lead SHSM teacher in your school, preferably in Grade 10
- During course selection in Grade 10
- Contact the Guidance Department in your school



COMPONENTS of an SHSM

1. BUNDLED CREDITS

Eight to ten Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits focused in the area of the skilled career, including cooperative education credits



2. CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Sector-recognized certifications and specialized training courses



3. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Experiential activities within the sector and career field



4. REACH AHEAD EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences connected with the student's postsecondary plans, including apprenticeship, college, university or workplace

5. SECTOR PARTNERED CONTEXTUALIZED EXPERIENCE

The offerings within this component include, Innovation Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) training, sector-delivered contextualized coding, sector-delivered contextualized mathematical literacy

All SHSMs are offered in all four pathways: apprenticeship training, college, university, and workplace.

What do GRADUATES RECEIVE?

Students who complete the requirements for the OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) and for the SHSM will receive an OSSD with an embossed SHSM seal on it. Credits earned towards the SHSM are indicated on the Provincial Report Card, and completion of the SHSM is recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

REQUIRED COMPONENTS FOR THE SHSM—HEALTH & WELLNESS

The SHSM—Health & Wellness has the following **FIVE** required components:

1 A BUNDLE OF NINE (9) GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12 CREDITS

- **FOUR** health & wellness major credits (that lead to apprenticeship training, college, university or workplace)
- **THREE** other required credits (one English, one Mathematics, one science or business studies)
- **TWO** cooperative education credits

2 SEVEN (7) SECTOR-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS AND/OR TRAINING COURSES/PROGRAMS

FOUR (4) COMPULSORY

- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Level C**
– includes automated external defibrillation (AED)
- **Infection Control**
- **Standard First Aid**
- **Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)**
– generic (i.e., not site-specific) instruction

THREE (3) ELECTIVES FROM THE LIST BELOW

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> advanced training in a technique (e.g., feeding, assistance, airway management, IV insertion) | <input type="checkbox"/> concussion awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> marine and wilderness first aid | <input type="checkbox"/> sign language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> allergy awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> conflict resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> medical terminology | <input type="checkbox"/> specialized care (e.g., diabetes, dementia, nutrition) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ambulation, lifting, and transfers | <input type="checkbox"/> customer service | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health First Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> sterile techniques |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal first aid | <input type="checkbox"/> ethical considerations | <input type="checkbox"/> non-violent crisis intervention | <input type="checkbox"/> stress management techniques |
| <input type="checkbox"/> babysitting | <input type="checkbox"/> fire safety & fire extinguisher use | <input type="checkbox"/> personal training | <input type="checkbox"/> SafeTALK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> behaviour management | <input type="checkbox"/> fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> personality inventory | <input type="checkbox"/> waste management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child safety and injury prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Handler Certification | <input type="checkbox"/> portfolio development | <input type="checkbox"/> wrapping and taping for performance and injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communication skills | <input type="checkbox"/> group dynamics | <input type="checkbox"/> project management | <input type="checkbox"/> dietary considerations |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> lab practices | <input type="checkbox"/> safe body mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> equity and inclusion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> leadership skills | <input type="checkbox"/> safe food handling – basic | |

3 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Opportunities relevant to the sector might include the following:

- One-on-one observation of a cooperative education student at a placement in the health & wellness sector (an example of job twinning)
- A day-long observation of a health & wellness sector professional (an example of job shadowing)
- A one-or two-week work experience with a member of an industry association or a professional in the sector (an example of work experience)
- A volunteer experience in a long-term care facility
- An experience coaching an elementary school student in reading as part of a reading buddy program, or other curricular or extracurricular activities
- Assisting in an exercise class in a long-term care facility
- attendance at a health and wellness sector career fair

4 REACH AHEAD EXPERIENCES

Students are provided one or more reach ahead experiences – opportunities to take the next steps along their chosen pathway – as shown in the following examples:

- **Apprenticeship:** visiting an approved apprenticeship delivery agent in the sector
- **College:** interviewing a college student enrolled in a sector-specific program
- **University:** observing a university class in a sector-related program
- **Workplace:** interviewing an employee in the sector

5 SPCE – SECTOR-PARTNERED CONTEXTUALIZED EXPERIENCE

Provides schools with the flexibility to adjust their programming to local capacity and opportunities, and align with the interests and needs of students.

OCCUPATIONS IN THE HEALTH & WELLNESS SECTOR

- | | |
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| • Educational Assistant | • Sports Therapist |
| • Early Childhood Educator | • Child & Youth Worker |
| • Dental Hygienist/Assistant | • Ambulance Attendants & Other Paramedical Occupations |
| • Pharmacy Technician | • Chiropractor |
| • Registered Massage Therapist | • Dentist |
| • Registered Orthopaedic Technologist | • Optometrist |
| • Kinesiologist | • Nutritionist |
| | • Registered Nurse |