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.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR
SHSM
Ontario.ca/SHSM

DDSB
Ignite Learning

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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**

SHSM
SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Student Success
GRADES 7–12

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—INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The SHSM–Information & Communications Technology has the following **FIVE** required components:

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

- **FOUR information & communications technology 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 SIX (6) SECTOR-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS AND/OR TRAINING COURSES/PROGRAMS

THREE (3) COMPULSORY

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

THREE (3) ELECTIVES FROM THE LIST BELOW

- ❏ advanced training in a technique (e.g., website design, coding, digital lighting, search engine optimization)
- ❏ basic electrical safety
- ❏ CISCO networking
- ❏ computer hardware
- ❏ counterfeit detection
- ❏ customer service
- ❏ electronics – basic
- ❏ elevated work platforms
- ❏ ergonomics
- ❏ fall protection
- ❏ health and safety – basic
- ❏ intellectual property
- ❏ interfacing equipment
- ❏ internet security
- ❏ ladder safety training
- ❏ leadership skills
- ❏ lighting and sound equipment maintenance
- ❏ lockout/tagging
- ❏ network cabling
- ❏ network configuration
- ❏ portfolio development
- ❏ project management
- ❏ recording equipment
- ❏ sector-specific software 1
- ❏ sector-specific software 2
- ❏ specialized skills training program/competition
- ❏ technical support
- ❏ Working at Heights

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 ICT sector (an example of job twinning)
- A day-long observation of an ICT sector worker (e.g., telecommunications technician) (an example of job shadowing)
- A one- or two-week work experience with a member of an industry association or a professional in the ICT sector (e.g., a computer game developer), (an example of work experience)
- Attendance at a sector or trade show, a conference, a symposium, or a job fair
- Participation in a local, provincial, or national contest or competition with a focus on ICT
- A tour of a local television/film studio or network monitoring centre

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 INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

- **Help Desk Technology Support Analyst**
- **Telecommunications Installation and Repair/Network Cabling Specialist**
- **Audio and Video Recording Technician**
- **Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologist and Technician**
- **Electronic Service Technician**
- **Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Animator**
- **Residential and Commercial Installer and Servicer – Satellite Dish Installer**
- **Computer Engineer**
- **Telecommunications Line and Cable Worker**
- **Computer Network Technician**

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