

Specialist High Skills Major

What is a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

Student Success is about meeting the individual learning needs of each and every student. The SHSM is a ministry-approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The SHSM also assists students in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

St. Patrick's Catholic High School is proud to offer a growing number of SHSM programs in a variety of sectors. This newsletter explains some of the benefits and requirements of these opportunities to help students and parents make informed choices.

Key Benefits of an SHSM

Pursuing an SHSM enables students to:

- CUSTOMIZE THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION TO SUIT THEIR INTERESTS AND TALENTS
- DEVELOP SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
- EARN CREDITS THAT POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE SECTOR RECOGNIZE
- GAIN SECTOR-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION & CAREER-RELEVANT TRAINING
- DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND WORK HABITS DOCUMENTED THROUGH THE ONTARIO SKILLS PASSPORT
- IDENTIFY, EXPLORE AND REFINE CAREER GOALS AND MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE
- REMAIN FLEXIBLE, WITH THE OPTION TO SHIFT BETWEEN PATHWAYS, SHOULD THEIR GOALS AND PLANS CHANGE.

ST.PATRICK'S SHSM SECTORS:

Arts and Culture

actor; director; artist; musician; teacher; designer; editor; historian; reporter

Construction

carpenter; architect; painter; pipe fitter; roofer; electrician

Health and Wellness -Fitness

coaching; exercise science; personal fitness training; recreation leadership

Health and Wellness -Health

physician; nurse; chiropractor; massage therapist; midwife; childcare worker

Hospitality and Tourism

chef; nutritionist; dietician; event planner

Information and Communications Technology

media and animation; photography; graphic communications; video production

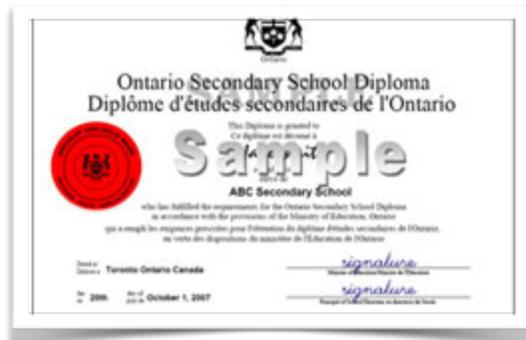
Manufacturing

machinist; millwright; welder

How is an SHSM recognized?

Students who successfully complete an SHSM receive:

- ▶ An Ontario Secondary School Diploma embossed with a red seal
- ▶ An SHSM Record documenting his/her achievement
- ▶ Formal recognition on his/her Ontario Student Transcript



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BUNDLED CREDITS

A defined bundle of 8-10 credits taken in Grade 11 and 12.

The Bundle consists of:

Major Credits - 4 credits made up of Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses that build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills

Required Credits - 2-4 other required credits from the Ontario Curriculum

Two Cooperative Education Credits - 2 credits in a work placement in the students' chosen SHSM sector

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CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Each SHSM requires 6 - 7 sector-specific certifications that have been identified through sector consultations.

They include:

- 3 - 4 compulsory certifications or training courses / programs (e.g. First Aid, CPR, WHMIS, etc.).
- 2 - 3 other certifications, which are selected from a list of elective certifications or training courses / programs.

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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CAREER EXPLORATION

The SHSM experiential learning and career exploration consists of planned activities that take place outside the traditional classroom setting.

These may take a variety of forms, including:

- Career exploration activities
- Job shadowing / twinning
- Work experience
- Virtual work experience.

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REACH AHEAD EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences connected with the students' post-secondary plans.

- Reach ahead opportunities could include:
 - Interviewing an employee in the SHSM work sector
 - Attending a number of college or university classes in the student's area of interest
 - Attending a conference or workshop held by the sector
 - Completing a dual credit course, which counts for credit towards both the OSSD and a post-secondary certificate, diploma, degree, or Level 1 apprenticeship.

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ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND WORK HABITS

Development of Essential Skills and work habits required in the sector, recorded using the tools in the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP). Essential Skills are the generic skills used in virtually all occupations and many aspects of daily life. The OSP also includes important work habits such as working safely, working as part of a team, reliability, and initiative.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

For additional information, contact the school or visit: <https://www.st-clair.net/sph/home.aspx> and follow the link under Course Selection.

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