

Specialist High Skills Major

Student Success is about meeting the individual learning needs of each and every student. Schools are providing students with more opportunities to customize their high school experience and build on their strengths and interests through a variety of new and enhanced learning options. One of those options is the Specialist High Skills Major.

What is a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

- An SHSM is a ministry-approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school. It also assists in their transition after graduation to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace.
- In the 2011–12 school year, SHSMs are available in the following sectors:

Agriculture	Forestry	Justice, Community Safety, and Emergency Services
Arts and Culture	Health and Wellness	Manufacturing
Aviation/Aerospace	Horticulture and Landscaping	Mining
Business	Hospitality and Tourism	Non-profit
Construction	Information and Communications	Sports
Energy	Technology	Transportation
Environment		

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 and 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.

How is an SHSM recognized?

Students who successfully complete an SHSM receive:

- an Ontario Secondary School Diploma with an embossed red seal
- an SHSM Record documenting his/her achievement
- formal recognition on his/her Ontario Student Transcript.

Where are SHSMs being offered? How do I find out more?

- In 2011–12, SHSM programs are available in all school boards across the province. For more information about what is available, please contact your school principal or the Student Success Leader at your school board. More detailed information about SHSMs and how they work can be found at www.ontario.ca/studentsuccess.