

# What is the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

The Specialist High Skills Major (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) and assists in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

The SHSM enables students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in the context of engaging, career-related learning environments and helps them focus on graduation and on pursuing their postsecondary goals. More information

at: [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/studentsuccess/pathways/shsm/shsm\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/studentsuccess/pathways/shsm/shsm_fact_sheet.pdf)

## SHSM Offerings in Windsor/Essex for 2009-2010 School Year

### Manufacturing

- Sandwich Secondary School
- Herman Collegiate
- General Amherst High School

### Arts & Culture

- Walkerville Collegiate
- L'Essor High School
- Brennan High School

### Hospitality & Tourism

- Lajeunesse High School
- Leamington District Secondary School
- Century Secondary School
- Assumption College High School

### Agriculture

- Cardinal Carter High School

### Environment

- St. Anne High School

### Health & Wellness

- St. Joseph High School
- Sandwich Secondary School
- L'Essor Secondary School

### Business

- Riverside High School
- Holy Names High School

### Construction

- Lajeunesse High School
- Public Alternative Secondary School
- Cardinal Carter Catholic High School

### Information & Communication Technology

- St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) are Ministry approved. Every SHSM must include the following five components, which are outlined in detail in ministry-approved frameworks developed for each area of specialization:

1. A package of 9–11 required credits (the majority earned in Grade 11 and 12 courses) that constitute a pathway to one of four possible destinations: apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.
  - a. four credits – called the “major” credits – for courses that provide knowledge and skills closely related to the particular sector of specialization, which are specified in each of the frameworks;
  - b. three or four additional required credits for courses in English and other relevant disciplines (e.g., science, mathematics, or business studies), as specified in each of the frameworks, which include units of study that are customized to the particular sector. Some credits (e.g., English) may be used to meet compulsory credit requirements for the OSSD;
  - c. two cooperative education credits, which may be used to meet two of the 18 compulsory credit requirements for the OSSD;
  - d. one-half credit for the Grade 10 Career Studies course (which also meets a compulsory half-credit requirement for the OSSD).
2. Compulsory certifications, which are identified in each SHSM framework.
3. Experiential learning through job shadowing, work experience, and a minimum of 2 credits earned through cooperative education.
4. Use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) to document demonstration of essential skills and work habits.
5. “Reach ahead” opportunities, which allow students to experience learning in their intended post-secondary destination and which can range from a day of attendance at a college, a university, a workplace experience or to the completion of a dual credit.