

Parent Guide

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

How does it work?

Students take a bundle of 8-10 courses in grades 11 and 12 including four “major” credits in their area of interest.

English, Mathematics, Science or Business courses are specifically designed to complement the “majors”

Students can take at least two co-op credits and get valuable experience related to their SHSM.

The following is a list of all the SHSM sectors the WCDSB offers:

- Arts & Culture
- Business
- Construction
- Energy
- Environment
- Health & Wellness
- Horticulture & Landscaping
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information & Communications Technology
- Justice, Community Safety & Emergency Services
- Manufacturing
- Sports
- Transportation

What if...

...after the program a student decides that this is not for them?

All credits earned in an SHSM program count towards the completion of a standard Ontario Secondary School Diploma

Any certifications or training gained will hold a student in good stead for part-time jobs or work placements.

Co-op is a valuable experience, allowing a student to discover what they like doing, and just as importantly, what they don't like doing.



What are the advantages?

SHSM students will:

HEAR and **SEE** first hand what a career in their sector feels and looks like

DISCOVER the relationship between school and careers

NETWORK with post-secondary institutions, local industries and businesses

GAIN confidence in their ability to succeed

COMPLETE industry recognized certifications and training

OPEN doors for summer jobs and future employment

EARN a **Red Seal designation** on their OSSD.



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How to plan for SHSM

Plan ahead by encouraging your son or daughter to...

GRADE 7 & 8

Investigate their interests and passions inside and outside of school

Use careercruising.com to start their secondary school education plan

Attend Grade 8 Information Nights to consult with teachers and counsellors

GRADE 9

Enroll in courses that align their interests, skills and academic abilities.

Review and update their education plan on careercruising.com

Consult with guidance counsellors to ensure they have the pre-requisite courses

GRADE 10

Explore opportunities in the **Career Studies Course**.

Use careercruising.com to align their post-secondary plans with their current secondary school education plan

Discuss program options with teachers.

Fill out the SHSM sign up form

Planning early will allow students to...

GRADE 11

Begin SHSM programming and work towards completion

Select appropriate Grade 12 **SHSM courses**

GRADE 12

Complete SHSM requirements.

Apply for post-secondary opportunities

Achieve OSSD & Red Seal Designation



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

For more information , please contact the Guidance or Co-operative Department in your local high school

WWW.HIGHSKILLS.CA