

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

SHSM is a Ministry of Education approved program allowing students to focus their learning in a specific economic sector while meeting their requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students are able to customize their courses to suit their interests and talents while preparing for a sector specific apprenticeship, college, university, or workplace destination. Students will be required to complete specific subjects in a major focus area, and complete industry certification courses. Students can enroll in the program in their senior years after they have completed their grade 10 credit requirements.

SHSM PROGRAMS OFFERED AT GDHS:

- Construction Technology (offered since 2012)
- Transportation Technology (offered since 2014)
- Health and Wellness (offered since 2024)

KEY BENEFITS OF SHSM:

Pursuing an SHSM helps students to:

- Customize their secondary school education to suit their interests and talents
- Develop specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector and postsecondary education institutions
- Earn credits that are recognized by the sector and postsecondary education institutions
- Acquire sector-specific and career-relevant certification and training
- Gain confidence in their knowledge of the SHSM Sector
- Identify, explore and refine their career goals and make informed decisions about their postsecondary destination
- Remain flexible, with the option to shift between pathways

How is a Specialist High Skills Major recognized? Students who successfully complete an SHSM receive:

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

Five components of the SHSM Program include:

1. A package of eight – ten Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits which includes:
 - i) 4 major senior credits that provide sector-specific knowledge and skills,
 - ii) 2 - 4 other required senior credits from the Ontario curriculum, which includes contextualized learning activities,
 - iii) 2 cooperative education credits that provide authentic learning experiences in a workplace setting,
2. Sector-recognized certifications and/or training courses,
3. Experiential learning and career exploration activities within the sector,
4. “Reach ahead” experiences connected with the student’s chosen post-secondary pathway,
5. Development of Essential Skills and work habits required in the sector, and the use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP)

Despite being one of the smallest schools in the board, GDHS has the highest number of students graduating from our Specialist High Skills Major Tech Programs (Construction and Transportation). New statistics will be released for our NEW Health & Wellness SHSM Program next year.



Interested students are to indicate their desire to register in the SHSM Program by completing the required section during course selection in the student portal. Students will also be interviewed as part of their application to the program.



SHSM Transportation

The SHSM–Transportation provides students with a strong foundation for a wide variety of careers in the transportation sector, from those focusing on the service, repair, and modification of vehicles and vehicle systems to those related to the organization and management of transportation services and mass-transit systems. The SHSM–Transportation enables students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills before graduating and entering apprenticeship training, college, university, or an entry-level position in the workplace.

Requirements:

- 1 Senior English Credit
- 1 Senior Math Credit
- 4 Senior Transportation Credits
- 1 Senior Business/Art/Science/Canadian or World Studies
- 2 Co-op Credits (sector specific)
- Coding/Innovation/creativity/entrepreneurship

4 Mandatory Certifications

E.g. Standard First Aid, CPR Level A or C and AED, Basic Health & Safety, WHIMIS.

3 Optional Certifications

E.g. Specific Vehicle Operation and Safety, Customer Service, Pleasure Craft License are just a few of the optional certifications we offer.

PLUS **Reach Ahead Activities** like attending different Trade Shows and Events.



SHSM Construction

The SHSM–Construction enables students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills before entering apprenticeship training, college, university, or an entry-level position in the workplace.

Requirements:

- 1 Senior English Credit
- 2 Senior Math Credits
- 4 Senior Construction Credits
- 1 Senior Business/Art/Science/Canadian or World Studies
- 2 Co-op Credits (sector specific)
- Coding/Innovation/creativity/entrepreneurship

5 Mandatory Certifications

E.g. Standard First Aid, CPR Level A or C and AED, Working at Heights, Basic Health & Safety, WHIMIS.

2 Optional Certifications

E.g. Forklift Training, Chainsaw Training, Customer Service, Pleasure Craft License are just a few of the optional certifications we offer.

PLUS **Reach Ahead Activities** like attending different Trade Shows and Events.

SHSM Health & Wellness

The SHSM–Health and Wellness enables students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills before graduating and entering apprenticeship training, college, university, or an entry-level position in the workplace. Where local circumstances allow, boards may elect to offer one or more variants of the SHSM in a given sector, each with a particular area of focus. This SHSM may be designed to have a particular focus – for example, on health care, fitness, or child care and family services. This focus is achieved through the selection of the four major credits in the bundle.

Requirements:

- 1 Senior English Credit
- 1 Senior Math Credit
- 1 Senior Business/Art/Science/Canadian or World Studies
- 4 Senior Sciences
- 2 Co-op Credits (sector specific)
- Coding/Innovation/creativity/entrepreneurship

4 Mandatory Certifications

E.g. Standard First Aid, CPR Level C and AED, WHIMIS, and Infection Control.

3 Optional Certifications

E.g. Mental Health Awareness, Personal Training, Safe Body Mechanics, and Wrapping and Taping for Performance and Injury are just a few of the optional certifications offered.

PLUS **Reach Ahead Activities** like attending different Trade Shows and Events.

All Training and Certification is paid for by the SHSM Program!

