

## ***Robert F. Hall C.S.S. Arts & Culture SHSM***

### **WHAT IS A SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)?**

- A 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.
- A 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.
- Every SHSM must include the following five components, which are outlined in detail in individual guides for each sector:
  1. **A bundle of 8-10 Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits** that includes:
    - i. 4 major credits that provide sector-specific knowledge and skills
    - ii. 2 other required credits from the Ontario curriculum
    - iii. 2 cooperative education credits that provide authentic learning experiences in a workplace setting, enabling students to refine, extend, and practice sector-specific knowledge and skills
  2. **6 Sector-recognized certifications and/or training courses** i.e Standard First Aid, CPR and WHMIS.
  3. **Experiential learning and career exploration** activities within the sector.
  4. **“Reach ahead” experiences** connected with the student’s chosen postsecondary pathway.
  5. **NEW! SHSM COMPONENT:** Sector-Partner Contextualized Experience (SPCE). This experiential activity will take approximately 6 hours complete. It is delivered with a community partner...to solve a business or community challenge.
    - i. **INNOVATION:** Innovation is both the generation and realization of new-to-the-world ideas that add **meaningful value** to people’s lives.
    - ii. **CREATIVITY:** Creativity is a process of generating ideas, making connections and imagining what could be.
    - iii. **ENTREPRENEURSHIP:** is a set of activities for building and scaling an idea sustainably.

**For short, we refer to this experiential activity as**

**I.C.E**

## **HOW DOES A SHSM BENEFIT STUDENTS?**

- A SHSM program allows students to experience a range of customized learning opportunities in an area that interests them, and helps to engage them in their school program.
- It gives students the opportunity to explore, identify, and refine career goals and make informed decisions related to postsecondary education or training and next steps towards a career.
- A SHSM program will help students gain confidence in their ability to succeed, and see the connections between their studies, the world beyond high school, and their future careers.
- Students begin to establish relationships and networks in their chosen field.
- Students who have successfully completed an SHSM program, can provide evidence of their achievement of the required components (e.g., sector-recognized certifications and training programs) to prospective employers and postsecondary educational or training institutions.

## **HOW IS SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN SHSM PROGRAM DOCUMENTED?**

- Successful completion of this program is indicated on the student's Ontario Secondary School Diploma by a red seal.
- The student receives a SHSM Record that documents his or her achievement of the required components, including sector-related certifications earned and/or training courses completed.
- Successful completion of a SHSM is indicated on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST).