



Arts and Culture SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Potential Careers

- ✓ Fine Arts
- ✓ Graphic Design
- ✓ Interior Design
- ✓ Architect
- ✓ Web Design
- ✓ Advertising
- ✓ Photo Journalism
- ✓ Software Engineer
- ✓ Video Game Designer
- ✓ Computer Systems Analyst

A “Head-Start” – Program Overview

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program in Arts and Culture gives students an opportunity to specialize, gain qualifications, and plan a career pathway in various areas of the Arts sector while still in high school. The SHSM Program has a number of required components, designed to give students a “head start” to pursue post-secondary opportunities in each of the identified sectors, valuing apprenticeship, college, university and direct entry into the world of work.

Arts education helps our young people build their confidence, express their individuality, creativity and improve how well they learn other school subjects. Studies show that students who participate in the Arts, develop math, literacy and writing skills with increased proficiency.

The SHSM Experience

- Gain an awareness of career opportunities in the Arts and Culture sector
- Participate in workshops and sessions with industry professionals
- The practical and theoretical application of Drama, Dance, Musical Theatre as well as Vocal and Instrumental Music
- Access resource, equipment and expertise that may not be available in their home school
- Network with Potential Employers
- Explore, identify and refine career goals



What is my Plan for Achieving My Goals?

Each SHSM program offers students a bundle of 8 - 10 credits. These courses are regular Ontario secondary school courses that allow students to work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, but have been bundled as the most relevant courses to prepare students for a future in the Arts and Culture sector.

The bundle includes:

- 4 “major” credits in Arts and Culture at the Senior level (Grades 11 and 12). Courses are dependent on the focus of each respective program – contact Lead Teachers or Guidance contacts for information about specific course offerings / requirements.
- Supporting credits, which include Contextualized Learning Activities - opportunities for students to learn the subject in the context of the Arts sector i.e. Students complete a business project that is sector-specific
 - » 1 Grade 12 English
 - » 1 Grade 11 or 12 Art, Business Studies or Canadian and world Studies credit
 - » 2 cooperative education credits that relate directly to the Arts and Culture sector

What are My Opportunities?

- **Resume-building and Awareness Training:** Students complete sector-recognized certifications related to the major and selected from a list, including Standard First Aid, CPR Training, WHMIS.
- Additional electives specific to the sector including, but not exclusively: instructor certification, portfolio development, stage combat, technical staging and training in an art form
- **Experiential Learning Opportunities:**
 - » Have the opportunity to job-shadow industry professionals
 - » Complete 2 Cooperative Education credits and get work experience in the sector
 - » See guest speakers, go on field trips and other workplace experiences to explore potential careers related to Arts and Culture
- **Reach Ahead Experiences:** Visit College and University campuses and industry partners to explore potential post-secondary pathway opportunities
- Completing the SHSM program prepares students for their pathway to apprenticeship, college, university or work

School: Corpus Christi CSS, Burlington

SHSM Program: ARTS AND CULTURE

Focus: Digital Arts

Program Teacher: Francis Spadafora spadaforaf@hcdsb.org

For more information on the Specialist High Skills Major program:

- contact the program teacher
- contact your school guidance counsellor
- log into myblueprint.ca/hcgsb
- visit <https://haltonpathways.ca> and <https://studentsuccess.hcgsb.org>

