

AGRICULTURE & VETERINARY STUDIES

Acton District School

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Agriculture and Veterinary Studies SHSM is a program designed to develop insight into the vastness of the agriculture and veterinary sector by fostering leadership and other transferable skills. The Specialist High Skills Major 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).

This SHSM will prepare students to enter two in-demand sectors. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association anticipates a need to grow the Canadian veterinary population at an annual rate of 3.4-4.0% per year to keep up with retirements. Additionally, Canada's agri-food industry is drastically increasing as the world will require 70% more food by 2050. Since Ontario has more than half of Canada's available "class 1" farmland, it is anticipated that many future employment opportunities will exist in this sector. The SHSM will inspire young people, build their confidence and help them develop skills for future success.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

- Listen to guest speakers related to various agriculture and veterinary related careers, attend field trips to farms, agri-business and educational facilities
- Complete 2 Cooperative Education credits

Related Careers

- Agricultural Worker
- Animal Groomer
- Arborists
- Animal Care Workers
- Chemical Engineer
- Greenhouse Workers
- Heavy-duty Equipment Mechanics
- Horse Groomer/Trainer
- Plant Biology
- Veterinarians
- Veterinary Technicians

Certifications & Training

- CPR Level C/ AED Training & Standard First Aid and WHMIS
- Leadership Skills
- Species Identification
- Small Animal First Aid
- Chainsaw Safety
- Soil Testing Techniques
- Working at Heights
- Apiculture Awareness
- Equipment Operation Safety
- Infections Control
- Livestock Production/Medicine
- ...and more

CREDITS

Course Package

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 agriculture sector.

The Bundle Includes:

- **4 “major” credits** related to agriculture in grade 11 and 12
- **Supporting credits**, which include Contextualized Learning Activities (opportunities for students to learn the subject in the context of the Agriculture sector):
 - > 1 Grade 12 English credit
 - > 1 Grade 11 Math credit
 - > 1 Grade 11 or 12 Science, Business Studies or Social Sciences credit
 - > 2 Cooperative Education credits to experience life in the agriculture sector

Applying to the Agriculture & Veterinary Studies SHSM:

All students in Halton are able to attend the Agriculture SHSM at Acton District School in grade 11 and grade 12. Each student’s goals will be assessed and course selection will be determined based on their needs.

If you want to learn more about this program:

- Check out the Agriculture & Veterinary Studies SHSM at **haltonpathways.ca**
- Visit **myblueprint.ca/halton**
- Talk to Shawn Brown in Student Services
- Come to a Pathways Planning Information Evening (see haltonpathways.ca for dates and times)

CONTACT

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