

What is a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

An SHSM allows students to customize their high school experience to fit career interests. Offered in grade 11 and 12, an SHSM allows students to receive a specialized high school diploma that is recognized in various economic sectors in all four pathways.

What does an SHSM look like?

An SHSM is a bundle of 8 to 10 grade 11 and grade 12 credits that include two Experiential Learning (Co-op) credits.

What do you get by taking an SHSM?

- Sector-recognized certifications and training
- Real workplace experience
- Learning experiences connected with postsecondary opportunities
- Skills and work habits required for employment success



Grand Erie ...

More Programs, More Choices

Specialist High Skills Major

The Construction Program Woodworking Focus

Cayuga Secondary School

This is a Construction/Woodworking program with an emphasis on essential and employable skills. Students have access to a wide range of senior level courses stretching across all aspects of the Construction industry.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do until I learned about apprenticeships and the Construction SHSM. I was able to get a co-op with the training I learned in class and now I'm enrolled in a college cabinet making program and working part time at a Cabinet Making Shop."

CSS Student

Benefits of the Construction Program:

- Students receive training in: Ladder Safety, Fall Protection, Chain Saw Safety, WHMIS, CPR, First Aid, Fork Lift Training, and Propane Safety
- Students can take a focus course in electrical, sheet metal, and plumbing
- Students learn all stages of the lumber milling process, including the safe use of an actual lumber mill
- Co-ops are available for students looking to pursue an apprenticeship and a potential career in the construction/woodworking industry

