



Iona Catholic Secondary School
Arts and Culture
Specialist High Skills Major

The Specialist High Skills Major (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). SHSM assists in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

Pursuing the Arts and Culture Specialist High Skills Major (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. Students earn a distinctive SHSM diploma.

Every SHSM must include the following components:

- Bundle of 8 Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits that include:
 - 4 in Arts and Culture (*already part of Arts program*)
 - 1 English (*already graduation component*)
 - 1 Business/Canadian and World Studies
 - 2 in Cooperative Education
(Summer Coop an option, placements have been in theatres, schools, TV studios, Mississauga Parks and Rec, Law firm, Radio stations, Photography studios, Art galleries, etc.)
- Sector-recognized *free* certifications and/or training courses that include:
 - Standard First Aid
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- Development of key Essential Skills and work habits required in the sector, and the use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP)
- Experiential learning activities within the sector (Industry led activities in & out of school)
- “Reach Ahead” experiences connected with the student’s chosen postsecondary pathway (Guest speakers, University/college visits, industry workplace specific field trips)