

# SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR



**FOCUSED** LEARNING,  
**FOCUSED** ACHIEVEMENT,  
**FOCUSED** RESULTS!



**CAREER**



Thames Valley District  
School Board

[tvdsb.ca/SHSM](http://tvdsb.ca/SHSM)



## SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR



### AGRICULTURAL or ENVIRONMENTAL

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a ministry-approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school. It also assists in their transition after graduation to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace. Involvement in this program enables students to customize their education to suit their interests and develop specialized knowledge and skills while gaining a variety of sector recognized certifications.

West Elgin Secondary School will be offering two Specialist High Skills Major programs for **2012-2013**. Students can choose either to take an **Agricultural** or **Environmental** focus in the High Skills program.

Students who successfully complete one of these programs will receive formal recognition on his/her Ontario Student Transcript and an embossed red seal on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students will also be given a Specialist High Skills Major Record which documents his/her achievement.

Participants must be prepared to meet the expectations and responsibilities of this program. Candidates may be required to attend an interview before being accepted. To be considered for this program, please sign the bottom of this form, and return it to **Mr. Soos (Agriculture), Mr. Van Dyk (Environment), Mr. Burke (Guidance)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am interested in participating in the following High Skills Major program at West Elgin Secondary. I realize and commit to the additional study and time required to complete the specialized program.

Agriculture

The Environment

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Thames Valley District School Board offers SHSM programs in over half of its secondary schools in the following range of sectors:

- Agriculture
- Arts and Culture
- Construction
- Environment
- Horticulture and Landscaping
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Manufacturing
- Sports
- Transportation
- Health and Wellness

#### SHSM Common Components

Each Specialist High Skills Major consists of five required components:

1. A defined bundle of 8 to 10 Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits
2. Sector-recognized certifications and training courses/programs
3. Experiential learning activities within the sector
4. "Reach Ahead" experiences connected with the student's postsecondary pathway
5. Development of Essential Skills and work habits required in the sector, and use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) for purposes of documentation

#### Industry Recognized SHSM Designation

Students must successfully complete all the required components in order to earn the SHSM designation on their diploma. In addition, students receive an "SHSM Record" which outlines their achievement of the five required components.

#### Some Key Benefits for SHSM Students

Bundles your interests and talents with a customized high school education by relating all your subjects towards your specialty.

Specific industry recognized experiences, skills building, career training, and certifications while still enrolled in your secondary school.

The opportunity to identify, explore, and refine career goals, and to make informed decisions about your future.

