

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR



YOUR SKILLS,  
YOUR FUTURE.

AGRICULTURE



# CREDITS

## Course Package

Each Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program offers students a bundle of eight to ten 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.

Two credits in this bundle include cooperative education where students pursue a work placement in a field of interest.

## Achievements in the Program

- **Certifications and Awareness Training:** Students complete selected sector-recognized certifications and training
- **Experiential Learning Opportunities:**
  - Have the opportunity to learn from industry professionals
  - Complete two cooperative education credits and gain work experience in the agriculture sector
  - See guest speakers and go on field trips to explore careers in agriculture
- Gain a **Sector-Partnered Experiences (SPE)** component that includes one of the following options: Innovation Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) training; sector-delivered coding; or, sector-delivered mathematical literacy. The SPE will require a six hour activity, delivered with a sector partner and have an experiential and an assessment component
- **Reach Ahead Experiences:** Explore the field and post-secondary education opportunities in the agriculture sector
- Completing the SHSM program prepares students for their pathway to **apprenticeship, college, university or work**



### The bundle includes:

- **Four “major” credits** in agriculture in Grade 11 and 12, such as biology, chemistry, and green industries focus courses
- **Supporting credits:**
  - One English credit in Grade 11 or 12
  - One math credit in Grade 11 or 12
  - One credit in business studies or science in Grade 11 or 12
  - Two cooperative education credits to experience life in the agriculture sector



## THE EXPERIENCE

**Students in the Agriculture Specialist High Skills Major program will:**

- Network with industry professionals through guest speakers, field trips, and sector-partnered experiences
- Focus on various areas of agriculture including veterinary medicine, animal science, plant science, farming, equine studies and the environment
- Connect with local agricultural community partners such as the Ontario Agricultural College and the Ontario Veterinary College
- Develop transferable skills and an understanding of the sector through environmental and agricultural work placements



The agriculture and agri-food sectors, which include primary agriculture, aquaculture, food and beverage processing, input and service suppliers, food distribution, retail, wholesale, and food service industries, are a major economic force in Canada. These sectors employ over 2.3 million Canadians and account for 1 in 8 jobs in the Canadian economy, or 12% of total Canadian employment. They contribute over \$108 billion dollars annually, or 6.6% of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP), and as demand for Canadian food and agriculture products increases worldwide, this contribution to the economy is expected to grow significantly.



For more information on the Specialist High Skills Major Agriculture program, contact your school guidance counsellor, SHSM board lead or visit [Ontario.ca/SHSM](https://Ontario.ca/SHSM)

