

**SH** SPECIALIST  
**SM** HIGH SKILLS  
MAJOR

YOUR SKILLS,  
YOUR FUTURE.

**BUSINESS**



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# 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 Business 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 related to the major
- **Experiential Learning Opportunities:**
  - > Have the opportunity to job-shadow industry professionals
  - > Complete 2 Cooperative Education credits and get work experience in the Business sector
  - > See guest speakers, go on field trips to explore careers in Business
- 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 6 hour activity, delivered with a sector partner and have an experiential and an assessment component
- **Reach Ahead Experiences:** Explore the field and postsecondary education opportunities in the Business sector
- Completing the SHSM program prepares students for their pathway to **apprenticeship, college, university or work**



## The bundle includes:

- **4 “major” credits** in Business in grade 11 and 12, such as Marketing, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Canadian and International Law, Financial Accounting, Business Leadership, International Business and Small Business Management
- **Supporting credits:**
  - > 1 Grade 12 English credit (and a Grade 11 English credit for students in the workplace pathway)
  - > 1 Grade 11 and 1 Grade 12 math credit (Grade 11 only for students in the workplace pathway)
  - > 2 Cooperative Education credits to experience life in the Business sector



# THE EXPERIENCE

## **Students in the Business Specialist High Skills Major program will:**

- Engage with entrepreneurs and other business professionals
- Participate in business competitions, such as the University Stock Market Competition, Python's Pit, Ontario Business Educators' Association contests and DECA (Developing Excellence Celebrating Achievement) competitions
- Visit postsecondary institutions, such as various colleges and universities throughout Ontario
- Take part in real-world business simulations, complete a business-related internship and earn certifications relevant in the business world
- Develop problem-solving, teamwork, management and leadership skills in a business setting



The Business sector offers opportunities in finance, marketing, retail, real estate, human resources, management and budget-related careers in the other sectors of our economy. Students who are interested in exploring their options related to business can take the Specialist High Skills Major program to engage in learning and experiences that will be an asset for a future in business.

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