

SPECIALIST
High Skills
Major

Arts & CULTURE

SECTOR

EXPERIENCE IT!

The arts are an integral part of our everyday lives, an essential and inseparable component of culture. Ontario's arts and culture industries contribute billions of dollars to the Ontario economy each year. Arts and culture industries bring people together locally, globally and virtually, helping to bridge large geographic distances and create communities of interest. Culture is increasingly being recognized as essential to prosperous, livable and sustainable cities and communities in the 21st century.

According to Statistics Canada, "Arts and culture are essential elements in the new global economy – not only for their entertainment value but for the skills they develop in individuals. An arts education, for example, challenges people to think critically and to solve problems creatively – skills that are now in high demand. During the 1990's, the culture sector labour force grew by 31 per cent, compared to 20 per cent for Canada's labour force as a whole."*

Ontario's exciting arts and culture scene attracts travellers from across Canada and around the world.

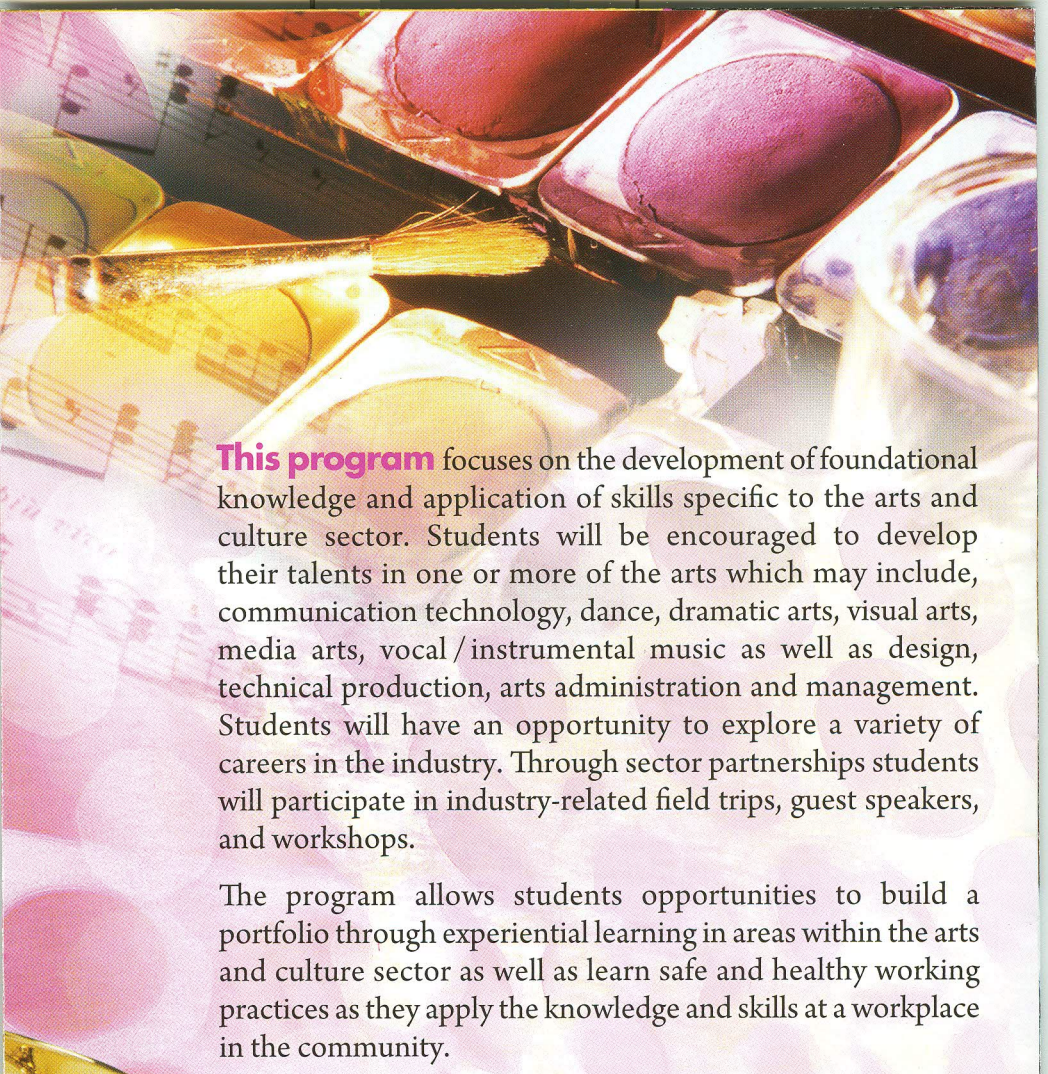
*As quoted on the Canada Council for the Arts website, at www.canadacouncil.ca

Arts & CULTURE SECTOR

Fast Facts:

- **Arts and culture contributed \$46 billion to Canada's economy in 2007, but the overall impact of the sector was a much broader \$84.6 billion**
Conference Board of Canada, March 2008
- **1.1 million jobs are attributed to arts and culture or to spinoff industries, such as tourism**
- **Creative people help fuel innovation in other economic sectors. Cities with large cultural communities are economically vibrant.**
- **Toronto is the 3rd largest screen-based arts centre in North America**
- **The Toronto International Film Festival will receive \$3 million from the federal government to promote 2009 festival events**

Toronto Region Labour Market Monitor, April 2009



This program focuses on the development of foundational knowledge and application of skills specific to the arts and culture sector. Students will be encouraged to develop their talents in one or more of the arts which may include, communication technology, dance, dramatic arts, visual arts, media arts, vocal/instrumental music as well as design, technical production, arts administration and management. Students will have an opportunity to explore a variety of careers in the industry. Through sector partnerships students will participate in industry-related field trips, guest speakers, and workshops.

The program allows students opportunities to build a portfolio through experiential learning in areas within the arts and culture sector as well as learn safe and healthy working practices as they apply the knowledge and skills at a workplace in the community.

INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES :

Variety of opportunities including areas such as, dance, drama, vocal/instrumental music, film, radio and television, design, visual arts, media arts, administration, journalism and reporting, computer/digital media, design

Wide range of positions from management, administration, finance, supervisor, technician, engineer, design, positions in pre-production, production and post-production, recording, fashion, advertising/marketing and sales, merchandising, human resources, journalism, research, communication

Employment opportunities include: performing arts centres, community centres, radio broadcasting, fashion design and manufacturing, skilled trades (electrician, carpentry, information and communication technology, painter, hairstylist), audio production, recording and engineering, entertainment/music business and management, entrepreneurial opportunities, multimedia, art galleries, museums



Experiential Learning Opportunities

SPECIALIST High Skills Major

Arts & CULTURE SECTOR

Potential Destinations:

Apprenticeship Training

Entertainment Industry Power Technician
Gem Setter/Goldsmith
Native Clothing and Crafts Artisan
Painter and Decorator

College

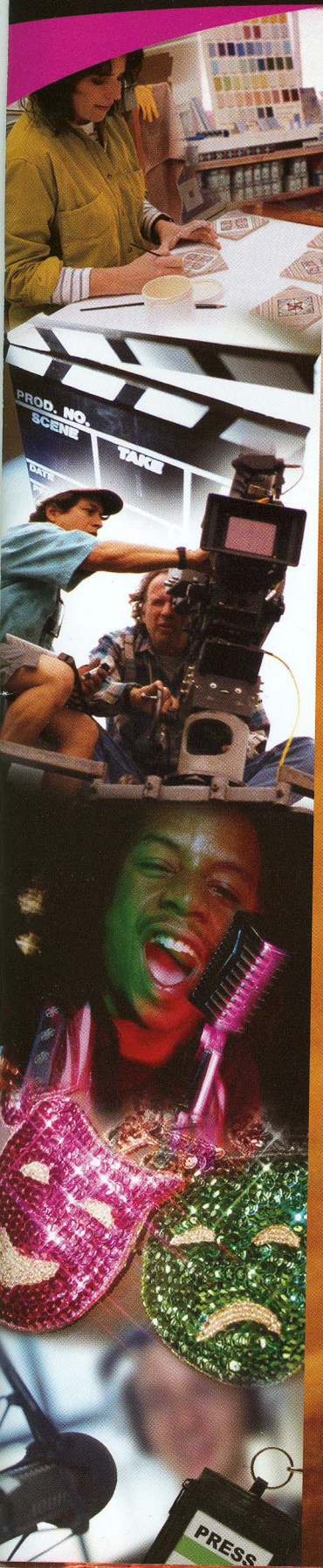
Actor or Comedian
Animator – Graphic Design and Illustration
Announcer and Other Broadcasters
Apparel Production Supervisor
Artisan or Craftsperson
Broadcast Technician
Film or Video Camera Operator
Graphic Arts Technician
Graphic Designer or Illustrator
Interior Designer
Other Performers
Other Technical and Coordinating
Occupations in Motion Pictures,
Broadcasting, and the Performing Arts
Photographer
Technical Occupations Related to
Museums and Art Galleries
Theatre, Fashion, Exhibit and Other
Creative Designers
Video Recording Technician

University

Author or Writer
Conductor, Composer, or Arranger
Conservator or Curator
Dancer
Painters, Sculptors, and Other Visual Artists
Producer, Director, Choreographer,
and Related Occupations
Professional Occupations in
Public Relations and Communications

Workplace

Camera, Platemaking or Other
Pre-Press Operations
Desktop Publishing Operator
and Related Occupations
Entertainer
Graphic Artist or Illustrator
Musician or Singer
Photographic and Film Processor
Sign Maker
Textile Colourist
Weaver, Knitter, and Other
Fabric-Making Occupations



WHAT IS A SPECIALIST High Skills Major

- The **Specialist High Skills Major** is a ministry-approved program that offers students the opportunity to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- Students gain career-related skills and knowledge in the specific area or industry sector that is of interest to them
- The **Specialist High Skills Major** enables students to acquire the skills and expertise in a specific economic sector to help prepare students to make the transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace

Each Specialist High Skills Major program includes:

1. Eight to ten bundled senior level credits
2. Sector-recognized certifications and/or training courses, including Safety Awareness Training
3. Experiential learning, including two compulsory Cooperative Education credits
4. Use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) and development of Essential Skills and work habits that are required in the sector
5. "Reach Ahead" experiences which may include a dual credit
6. Contextualized learning activities that integrate theory with practice

Students in a Specialist High Skills Major program have opportunities to:

- Enrich their high school experience
- Broaden their choices
- Increase their awareness of careers and postsecondary programs
- Gain professional skills
- Network with potential employers
- Be empowered to succeed

Q&A

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why would I enroll in a Specialist High Skills Major program?

- A:** The **Specialist High Skills Major** program will allow you to get a "head start" into a specific field of work. You will be able to:
- Work creatively in developing solutions to problems
 - Investigate the industry through work experience
 - Relate your studies to things you like to do
 - Receive a special **Specialist High Skills Major** red seal designation on your diploma
 - Gain valuable industry work experience and make connections with potential employers

Q: What can I do to prepare for entry into a Specialist High Skills Major program?

- A:** Plan to take the courses in grades 9 and 10 that lead into the **Specialist High Skills Major** program of your choice.

Q: What if the Specialist High Skills Major program that I am interested in taking is not available at my secondary school?

- A:** You are able to apply to the **Specialist High Skills Major** program at the secondary school where it is available.

SPECIALIST High Skills Major



Specialist High Skills Major Programs in the Toronto District School Board

Aerospace & Aviation

► Arts & Culture

Business

Construction

Emergency &
Community Services

The Environment

Energy

Health & Wellness

Hospitality & Tourism

Horticulture & Landscaping

Information &
Communication Technology (ICT)

Manufacturing

Transportation

**For more information about
Specialist High Skills Majors** or other
specialized programs such as the **Ontario
Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)**
contact the Experiential Learning Department
at the Toronto District School Board, your
guidance counsellor, Cooperative Education
or Technological Education teacher
at your home school.

www.tdsb.on.ca | www.oyaptdsb.com

For more information, please contact:

