



Nova Scotia High Skills Major

(Pilot program beginning September 2023)

High school students enrolled in the Nova Scotia High Skills Major certificate program earn a certificate of recognition by completing sector related courses and engaging in career exploration and community-based learning (CBL).

How does the program benefit students?

The program has been developed to

- support students in developing competencies and skills needed to make informed decisions as they successfully transition from high school to further education, training, and employment
- improve student engagement and recognize students' accomplishments and experiences in and out of school
- increase awareness about education and career pathways in Nova Scotia
- strengthen connections between education, community, and industry
- connect educational options and experiences with the local labour market so students feel they have opportunities close to home in Nova Scotia

Pilot program timeline and components

In 2023–2024, nine schools will begin to pilot one of three certificates: **Arts, Skilled Trades**, or **Technology**. In 2024–2025, an additional school will pilot **Health & Wellness**. In upcoming years, the High Skills Major program will expand to more schools. As the program grows, schools can apply to offer a major in other career sectors.

Region/Board	School	Certificate
AVRCE	Central Kings Rural High School	Skilled Trades
CBVRCE	Glace Bay High School	Arts
	Breton Education Centre	Health & Wellness
CSAP	École Beau-Port	Skilled Trades
CCRCE	Cobequid Educational Centre	Arts
HRCE	Cole Harbour High School	Skilled Trades
	JL Ilsley High School	Technology
SRCE	Richmond Education Centre/Academy	Skilled Trades
SSRCE	Liverpool Regional High School	Skilled Trades
TCRCE	Shelburne Regional High School	Skilled Trades

Each certificate stream has four components:

- **Focused Course Selection**
Students complete Co-operative Education 11 or 12, plus three elective courses that align with a career pathway.
- **Community-Based Learning**
Students complete a minimum of two community-based learning experiences (such as participation in a community event, workshop, or sector-related competition).
- **Training and Credentials**
Students complete a minimum of six training certificates and credentials that are valued by post-secondary programs and employers.
- **Portfolio**
Students capture their learning in a myBlueprint portfolio to showcase skill development, growth, and plans for an education and career pathway.

myBlueprint is a web-based career planning resource, available to all Nova Scotia High school students. In myBlueprint students can complete personal assessments, research careers and post-secondary programs, track high school credits earned, align high school courses with post-secondary programs, create and share resumes, explore labour market information, develop and share portfolios, and much more. Students can access myBlueprint after high school provided they do not have a gap of 12 months between logins.

Login page: <https://careerpathways.ednet.ns.ca/myblueprint>

Intake process

There is no formal application process required. Students will notify their school counsellor/registrar and they will be tagged in PowerSchool under Additional Programs. Students are encouraged to consider the program during the course selection process in grade 9 and enter the program in grade 10. However, students can enrol at a later point in high school, as long as they can complete all the components of the program.

If students are currently enrolled in a recognized program such as International Baccalaureate (IB), Options and Opportunities (O₂), or French Immersion, they can also earn a High Skills Major Certificate.

At this time, only certain courses are offered in French, therefore it is not possible to meet the requirements of the High Skills Major taking only French courses. French Immersion students may attain a High Skills Major certificate using courses in both languages. It is recommended for students to consult with their school counselor to confirm which courses are offered in French at their school, and to ensure that they can fulfill the requirements of their chosen programs.

Program management

School counsellors and registrars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• course selection, credit checks, certificates• myBlueprint support
School-based staff and teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• related curriculum and Co-operative Education• community-based learning, certifications, training included in curriculum
Youth Pathways Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCE/CSAP support for community-based learning and Co-operative Education• support pilot implementation
Nova Scotia Works School Liaisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• available for support upon request of schools• school-based events, small group workshops and training, individual sessions, labour market information and resources
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pilot implementation• RCE/CSAP support

Communicating with students and families

The Experiential Learning Lead and Youth Pathways Consultant will coordinate student presentations and class visits. Students and families can be directed to visit the website or reach out to the school counsellor.

Major in Arts

Focused Course Selection

Note: Courses are listed in the language(s) they are offered.

Two required courses:

- **One from any of the following:** Art dramatique 10, Dance 11, Drama 10, Integrated Fine Arts 11 (2023–24 pilot year only), Music 10, or Visual Art 10
- **One from any of the following:** Co-operative Education 11 or 12* or Éducation coopérative 11 or 12* in an arts work environment

Choose at least two from the following:

- Advanced Music 11
- Advanced Music 12
- Arts Entrepreneurship 12
- Arts Related Personal Development Credit
- Audio Recording and Production 12
- Challenge for Credit
- Communications Technology 11
- Communications Technology 12
- Co-operative Education 11 or 12* or Éducation coopérative 11 or 12* in an arts environment (in addition to the required co-op credit noted above)
- Dance 11
- Design 11
- Drama 11 or Art dramatique 11
- Drama 12: Theater Arts
- Film and Video Production 12*
- IB Music 12*
- IB Theatre Arts
- IB Visual Art
- Multimedia 12*
- Music 11
- Music 12
- Textile Technology 12
- Visual Arts 11*
- Visual Arts 12

* available through [Nova Scotia Virtual School](#)

Community-Based Learning

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage in community-based learning throughout their courses including Co-operative Education. Learners will show evidence of a minimum of two different community-based learning experiences that combine to total at least four hours. These experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a leadership role in arts events at the school
- working with an Elder, community mentor, or knowledge holder
- participation in a volunteer, community, or service-learning project related to the arts
- extracurricular experiences
- participation in a local, provincial, or national festival, competition, or film contest
- attendance at a career fair, conference, or workshop

Training and Credentials

Students will complete a minimum of *six* training certificates and credentials, of which most will occur during Co-operative Education. Training supports placement readiness, health and safety awareness, and skills valued by the sector.

Four required:

- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S)
- Safe Spaces Make Great Workplaces - NS Human Rights Commission
- Working with Abilities - NS Human Rights Commission

Choose at least two from the following:

- advanced or additional training (music, design, beading, drumming, theatre, etc.)
- completion of workshops from recognized organizations
- achievement of applied and written skills (instrumental/vocal) recognized by external organizations such as Royal Canadian Conservatory of Music
- Fall Protection
- Emergency First Aid and CPR
- Other credentials and training opportunities may be available to students and can be included upon approval.

Portfolio

Students reflect on and show evidence of growth and skill development and learning in a [myBlueprint](#) portfolio. Their portfolio may include the following:

- personality and skills inventories
- resume, letters of reference
- training and certifications
- documentation and reflection of community contributions, citizenship, volunteer work, and/or Co-op experiences
- documentation and reflection of projects, teachings, and independent learning
- education and career plans

Major in Health and Wellness

Focused Course Selection

Note: Courses are listed in the language(s) they are offered.

Two required courses:

- **One from any of the following:** Biology 11, Biologie 11, or Health and Human Services 12
- **One from any of the following:** Co-operative Education 11 or 12*, Éducation coopérative 11 or 12* in a health-related work environment

Choose at least two from the following:

- Co-operative Education 11 or 12*, or Éducation coopérative 11 or 12* in a health-related environment (in addition to the required co-op credit noted above)
- Canadian Families 12, Child Studies 11, or Family Studies 10
- Entrepreneurship 12*, Entrepreneuriat 12, Indigenous Entrepreneurship 11 or 12, or Business Management 12
- Food Science 12 or Food Studies and Hospitality 12
- Health and Human Services 12
- health-related Personal Development Credit
- Life 11
- one other physical education credit (in addition to the one required for graduation):
 - Physical Education 10, 11, or 12, Yoga 11, Physically Active Living 11, Mode de Vie Actif 11, IB Sports, Exercise and Health 11, IB Sports, Exercise and Health 11 or SL 12, Fitness Leadership 11, or Physical Education Leadership 12
- one other science credit in biology, chemistry, or physics:
 - Biology 11 or 12, or advanced or IB / biologie 11^e, 12^e, or avancée
 - Chemistry 11 or 12, or advanced or IB / Chimie 11^e or 12^e or avancée
 - Physics 11 or 12, or advanced or IB
 - Sociology 12 AC or Psychology 12 AP

* available through [Nova Scotia Virtual School](#)

NOTE: Students are advised to check admission requirements for post-secondary programs to ensure relevant course selection. For example, academic math is required for many programs and physics may be required for some health-related programs.

Community-Based Learning

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage in community-based learning throughout their courses including Co-operative Education. Learners will show evidence of a minimum of two different community-based learning experiences that combine to total at least four hours. These experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- participation in a volunteer, community, or service-learning project related to health and wellness
- working with an Elder, community mentor, or knowledge holder
- attendance at a career fair, conference, or workshop
- extracurricular experiences

Training and Credentials

Students will complete a minimum of six training certificates and credentials, of which most will occur during Co-operative Education. Training supports placement readiness, health and safety awareness, and skills valued by the sector.

Four required:

- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)
- Safe Spaces Make Great Workplaces – NS Human Rights Commission
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- Working with Abilities – NS Human Rights Commission

Choose at least two from the following:

- Emergency First Aid and CPR
- Mental Health First Aid
- WCB & Me / Safe@MyJob
- Completion of workshops from recognized organizations
- Other credentials and training opportunities may be available to students and can be included upon approval.

Portfolio

Students reflect on and show evidence of growth and skill development and learning in a [myBlueprint](#) portfolio. Their portfolio may include the following:

- personality and skills inventories
- resume, letters of reference
- training and certifications
- documentation and reflection of community contributions, citizenship, volunteer work, and/or Co-op experiences
- documentation and reflection of projects, teachings, and independent learning
- education and career plans

Major in Skilled Trades

Focused Course Selection

Note: Courses are listed in the language(s) they are offered.

Two required courses:

- **One from any of the following:** Construction Technology 10, Service Trades 10, Skilled Trades 10, or Family Studies 10 (two half credits: Food for Healthy Living 10, Food Preparation and Service 10, Food in Society 10, Food Technology 10)
- **One from any of the following:** Co-operative Education 11 or 12*, Éducation coopérative 11 or 12*, or Skilled Trades Co-operative Education 12 in a skilled trades work environment

Choose at least two from the following:

- Construction Technology 12
- Construction Trades 11
- Co-operative Education 11 or 12*, Éducation coopérative 11 or 12*, or Skilled Trades Co-operative Education 12 in a skilled trades work environment (in addition to the required co-op credit noted above)
- Culinary Trades 11
- Electrotechnologies 11
- Energy, Power, and Transportation 11
- Entrepreneurship 12*, Entrepreneuriat 12, Indigenous Entrepreneurship 11 or 12, or Business Management 12
- Food Studies and Hospitality 12
- Manufacturing Trades 11
- Production Technology 11
- Production Technology 12
- Tourism 11* or Tourism 12 (for service trades such as cook, baker)
- Transportation Trades 11

* available through [Nova Scotia Virtual School](#)

Community-Based Learning

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage in community-based learning throughout their courses including Co-operative Education. Learners will show evidence of a minimum of two different community-based learning experiences that combine to total at least four hours. These experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- participation in a volunteer, community, or service-learning project related to skilled trades
- attendance at a career fair, conference, or workshop
- working with an Elder, community mentor or knowledge holder
- participation in a local, provincial, or national competition (e.g., Skills Canada–Nova Scotia)

Training and Credentials

Students will complete a minimum of *six* training certificates and credentials, of which most will occur during Co-operative Education. Training supports placement readiness, health and safety awareness and skills valued by the sector.

Four required:

- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)
- Safe Spaces Make Great Workplaces – NS Human Rights Commission
- Working with Abilities – NS Human Rights Commission
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)

Choose at least two from the following:

Construction, Manufacturing, and/or Transportation Trades

- Building Futures for Youth Safety Training
- Fall Protection
- Scaffolding Awareness
- TestDrive Safety Training

Service Trades

- Food Handlers
- NS Best Service Excellence Training
- Serve it Up! Safety Training

Other

- Emergency First Aid and CPR
- WCB & Me / Safe@MyJob
- Other credentials and training opportunities may be available to students and can be included upon approval.

Portfolio

Students reflect on and show evidence of growth and skill development and learning in a [myBlueprint](#) portfolio. Their portfolio may include the following:

- personality and skills inventories
- resume, letters of reference
- training and certifications
- documentation and reflection of community contributions, citizenship, volunteer work, and/or Co-op experiences
- documentation and reflection of projects, teachings, and independent learning
- education and career plans

Major in Technology

Focused Course Selection

Note: Courses are listed in the language(s) they are offered.

Two required courses:

- **One from any of the following:** Communications Technology 11, Computer Programming 12, or Exploring Technology 10
- **One from any of the following:** Co-operative Education 11 or 12* or Éducation coopérative 11 or 12 * in a technology work environment

Choose at least two from the following:

- AP Computer Science 12
- AP Computer Science Principles 12
- Audio Recording and Production 12
- Business Technology 11
- Business Technology 12
- Communications Technology 11
- Communications Technology 12
- Computer Programming 12*
- Co-operative Education 11 or 12* or Éducation coopérative 11 or 12* in a technology work environment (in addition to the required co-op credit noted above)
- Electrotechnologies 11
- Entrepreneurship 12*, Entrepreneuriat 12, Indigenous Entrepreneurship 11 or 12, or Business Management 12
- Film and Video Production 12
- Geomatics 12
- IB Computer Science SL 11
- IB Computer Science SL 12 or HL 12
- IB Design Technology 11
- IB Design Technology SL 12
- IB Film 11
- IB Film SL 12 or HL 12
- IB Information Technology in a Digital Society 11
- IB Information Technology in a Digital Society SL 12
- Multimedia 12*

* available through [Nova Scotia Virtual School](#)

Community-Based Learning

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage in community-based learning throughout their courses including Co-operative Education. Learners will show evidence of a minimum of two different community-based learning experiences that combine to total at least four hours. These experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- participation in a volunteer, community, or service learning project related to technology
- attendance at a career fair, conference, or workshop
- working with an Elder, community mentor or knowledge holder
- participation in a local, provincial, or national competition (e.g., Skills Canada–Nova Scotia)

Training and Credentials

Students will complete a minimum of *six* training certificates and credentials, of which most will occur during Co-operative Education. Training supports placement readiness, health and safety awareness, and skills valued by the sector.

Four required:

- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S)
- Safe Spaces Make Great Workplaces - NS Human Rights Commission
- Working with Abilities – NS Human Rights Commission

Choose at least two from the following:

- CISCO Networking Academy
- Completion of workshops from recognized organizations
- Emergency First Aid and CPR
- Other credentials and training opportunities may be available to students and can be included upon approval.

Portfolio

Students reflect on and show evidence of growth and skill development and learning in a [myBlueprint](#) portfolio. Their portfolio may include the following:

- personality and skills inventories
- resume, letters of reference
- training and certifications
- documentation and reflection of community contributions, citizenship, volunteer work, and/or Co-op experiences
- documentation and reflection of projects, teachings, and independent learning
- education and career plans