What do you need to graduate with an OSSD?

17 Compulsory Credits

- ☐ 4 credits in English*

- ☐ 3 credits in mathematics (Grade 9, 10, and 11/12)

- ☐ 2 credits in science (Grade 9 and 10)

- ☐ 1 credit in technological education (Grade 9 or 10)

- ☐ 1 credit in Canadian history (in Grade 10)

- ☐ 1 credit in Canadian geography (in Grade 9)

- ☐ 1 credit in the arts (Grade 9 or 10)

- ☐ 1 credit in health and physical education

- ☐ 1 credit in French as a second language (in Grade 9)

- ☐ 0.5 credit in Career Studies (in Grade 10)

- ☐ 0.5 credit in Civics & Citizenship (in Grade 10)

- ☐ 1 credit in STEM (business, computers, co-op, an additional credit in math or science or technological education)

13 Optional Credits **

* *a maximum of 3 credits in English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.*

** *may include up to four credits achieved through Dual Credits*

Community Involvement -*Volunteerism*

All students must complete **40 hours** of community involvement. A helpful hint is to complete at least 10 hours per year. Hours may begin to accumulate during the summer after grade 8.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

In grade ten, students **write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**. The test includes several reading and writing tasks. To prepare for the test students at Aurora High practice literacy activities, participate in after school programs, and complete specifically targeted skill development in various grade ten classes.

Online Requirement / Opt-Out

Each student must earn **two online learning credits** that have been authorized by the school or the student may choose to opt-out of this requirement before high school graduation.

Financial Literacy Requirement

Students starting Grade 9 in September 2025 will write a financial literacy assessment in Grade 10 Mathematics course. The student must achieve a mark of 70% or higher to pass.

Assessment/Evaluation of Student Achievement

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Information gathered through assessment helps teachers to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses in their achievement of the curriculum expectations in each course.

Assessment is the process of gathering information from a variety of sources (including assignments, demonstrations, projects, performances, and tests) that accurately reflects how well a student is achieving the curriculum expectations in a course. As part of assessment, teachers provide students with descriptive feedback that guides their efforts towards improvement.

Evaluation refers to the process of determining the quality of student work on the basis of established criteria, and assigning a value to represent that quality. In Ontario secondary schools, the value assigned will be in the form of a percentage grade or level.

Student Academic Achievement is organized into the four broad categories: Knowledge/Understanding, Thinking/Inquiry, Communication, and Application. Student achievement is calculated through course work (70%) and summative tasks (30%), which may include exams, performance tasks, demonstrations, projects and/or essays.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES @ AURORA HIGH

SHSM

Aurora High currently offers **five** Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs: **Arts & Culture, Business, Construction, Health & Wellness,** and **Transportation**. SHSM is a specialized program which allows students in Grades 11 & 12 to experience a range of customized, career-focused learning opportunities while students work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students have the opportunity to customize their high school experience, explore new ways of learning and 'reach ahead' to their post-secondary destination of choice (apprenticeship, college, university, or the workplace). To reinforce student career interests, all SHSM students participate in a co-op placement.
SHSM students earn extra recognition among high school graduates with a red seal distinction on their Diploma.

For more information, please contact the Co-operative Education or Guidance departments.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Every student coming into high school has individual strengths and needs. The Student Success Team at Aurora High is here to ensure that all students are successful and achieve their full potential. The Student Success Team primarily works with students who are experiencing difficulty, and are not receiving assistance from the Student Services Department. The Student Success Team may involve teachers, parents, administration, school board personnel and community agencies in order to best meet individual student needs.

We have a Student Success resource room where students can find a quiet place to work with support from the Student Success Team. Some examples of the assistance provided by the team include: transition planning, monitoring, early intervention, credit salvaging, and credit recovery. In addition, the Student Success Team assists in developing a student's learning skills, including: organizational habits, the use of graphic organizers, goal setting, time management, and stress reduction to name a few.

**For more information please contact Mr. Green
or Ms. Ludlow at 905-727-3107 ext. 334.**

STUDENT SERVICES

Students identified through the IPRC process receive one of the following four levels of support:

Withdrawal Assistance requires students to enroll in Learning Strategies [GLE1O1]. This is a credit course where students learn skills necessary for success in high school and learn to apply these skills to other subject areas. The Learning Strategies teacher is also the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) who is responsible for the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and provides support to students and classroom teachers.

Resource Assistance is for students who do not enroll in Learning Strategies, but receive support from their SERT who is also responsible for the student's IEP.

Indirect Service is for students with an IEP prepared by a SERT who consults with course teachers to implement the IEP. Students independently contact the SERT for questions/support.

Regional Community Class programs (5) are individualized programs where students learn in areas determined by their IEP. Depending on the program, students may enroll in some credit and non-credit bearing courses. Each of our 5 programs focuses on building skills for life after high school.

**For more information please contact Ms. Korp,
Head of Student Services at 905-727-3107 ext. 172.**

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Co-op is a credit bearing educational programming that integrates classroom theory with practical experience in the workplace. Programming is based on a partnership between the school and a business or community organization. Co-op is available to Grade 11 & 12 students, and may be taken as a 2 credit (half day) or 4 credit (full day) package.

Other opportunities available through Co-operative Education include: summer Co-op, OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program), and the Militia Co-op (with the Canadian Armed Forces).

**For more information please contact Mrs. Ashby,
Head of Community-Based Education at 905-727-3107 ext. 263.**

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Aurora High offers an Alternative Education Program for students who are looking for an alternate pathway to graduation.

We offer a variety of in-school classes for both compulsory college credits (e.g. English) and elective credits. Interested in learning more about this alternative pathway to graduation?

Please contact Mr. Cathcart, Head of Personalized Alternative Education at 905-727-3107 ext. 249.