

I hear and I forget. I see and I understand.  
**I do and I remember.**

*-Chinese Proverb*

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND REACH-AHEAD EXPERIENCES

**Thinking of going for a Specialist High Skills Major? Confused about what “experiential learning” and “reach-ahead” experiences are?**

## Experiential Learning and Career Exploration Activities

Experiential learning and career exploration activities are planned learning activities that take place outside of the traditional classroom setting and relate to the sector of the SHSM (The Environment or Health Care). These enable students enrolled in the SHSM programs to explore careers in their chosen sector. Often, to further connect the experience to the student’s life, this will include a reflective discussion or assignment as a follow-up.

Experiential learning opportunities could include:

- One-on-one observation of a cooperative education student in a placement that relates to your SHSM sector (job twinning)
- One-on-one observation of an employer or employee working in the sector (job shadowing)
- Attending a conference, trade show, information session or workshop focusing on careers in the sector
- Assisting in a volunteer activity which is connected to the sector
- Participating in a fundraising activity which is connected to the sector

## “Reach Ahead” Experiences

“Reach ahead” experiences provide students with an opportunity to experience the next step in their chosen pathway. If a student has chosen the workplace pathway, he/she will experience a workplace setting; if a student has chosen the college pathway, he/she will participate in a college-related experience; and, if the student has chosen the university pathway, he/she will participate in a university-related experience. Again, to further connect the experience to the student’s life and future goals, this will include a reflective discussion or assignment as a follow-up.

Reach-ahead experiences could include:

- Interviewing a student in a related program, or visiting a college or university
- Attending an information session regarding a related college, university or apprenticeship program
- Talking to an employee in the field of work that the SHSM student is considering

**Tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.**