What does a Physician do?
If you have an interest in health care and a knack for science, there are many good reasons to consider going “pre-med.” People who work in the medical profession are held in high regard by our society. Perhaps it’s the specialized training they undergo or the nobility of life saving work.

Physicians diagnose illnesses and diseases and prescribe a treatment plan for patients. They work in a variety of specialty areas such as internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery, among others.

Many physicians work long, irregular hours. However, there are also rewards such as attractive salaries and the ability to impact a patient’s health in a positive way.

A career in medicine requires a genuine desire to serve patients from a variety of backgrounds. Since the training is lengthy and expensive, it is important that you are highly motivated and are able to survive the pressures of being in medical school.

In Washington, the future of the health care industry depends on a number of factors. Due to a growing and aging population, there will be an increase in demand for physicians. Changes to Medicare and Medicaid will have an impact on how doctors are reimbursed by the federal government.

If you’re considering medicine as a career, begin to research the many varied opportunities now. What do you want to specialize in? Where is training offered? How can you make yourself more competitive to get into medical school?

Physicians are employed in a variety of settings such as hospitals, colleges and universities, Federal, State and local governments and the military. Many physicians also prefer to be self-employed.

*Source: Washington Occupation Information System (WOIS) wois.org
How do I prepare for admission into a Medical School? What Washington universities have a Medical school?
Generally, admission into a medical school is highly competitive. The mean overall GPA for entering medical school students in the last decade has been approximately 3.50-3.60 nationwide. In 2008, students who were accepted to the UW School of Medicine had a mean GPA of 3.67.

The admission requirements for medical schools vary so be sure to check the prerequisites and admission standards. You should also develop strong written and oral communications skills.
The University of Washington-Seattle has the only medical school in the state. The UW School of Medicine is not concerned about a specific major for your bachelor’s degree. You should select a major that interests you and that you will do well in.

The following prerequisite courses are required for admission into the University of Washington School of Medicine: (Biology & 211, 212, 213; Chemistry & 161,162,163, 261, 262, 263; Physics 201, 202 & 203 OR 2 quarters of physics plus 2 quarters of calculus or linear algebra and Social Sciences and Humanities (6 quarters or 6 courses). Check with your advisor for help with course selection.

Admission into a medical school also requires excellent scores on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The MCAT is generally taken after your junior year or senior year and is heavily focused on the knowledge that you have acquired during the first two to three years of college. The day-long test covers four areas: reading skills analysis, including literature, social science, and natural science passages; biological science problem solving; physical science problem solving; and two 30-minute essays.

What do the salaries in this field look like?
In Washington, the average entry level wage for family and general practitioners is $7,333 per month ($42.31 per hour). Statewide, family and general practitioners average $147,970 per year ($71.14 per hour).*

How do I get a faculty advisor?
Working with a Pre-Medicine faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and sequencing, differences between various medical schools and how to be prepared for competitive admission.

To request a faculty advisor, please visit http://dev.highline.edu/edplanning or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6. For our hours of operation, go to http://dev.highline.edu/edplanning/contact.php

*Source: Washington Occupation Information System (WOIS) wois.org