What does a Secondary Education teacher do?

If you enjoy the challenge of working with 12-18 year old students, then teaching in the junior high or high school may be the career for you. The teenage years are a time of transition in the life of a young person – maturing physically, learning to think independently, exploring career options and growing socially. As a high school/junior high teacher, you can be very influential and supportive in the growth and development of an adolescent student.

Secondary teachers are more focused on a specific subject area than the elementary education teacher. Teachers focus on subject areas such as English, Math, History, PE, Music or the Sciences.

High school/junior high teachers develop a curriculum and conduct student assessments that meet the school, district and state expectations. Secondary teachers meet with other faculty members to discuss school issues and curriculum. Teachers also meet with the families and educational specialists to develop plans to assist individual students.

High school/junior high teachers use audio visual tools and technology to teach students. Often, high school/junior high teachers provide some level of academic and career advising to assist students with their educational planning. At times, teachers deal with student disciplinary issues.

In Washington State, the average entry level salary for high school teachers is $45,752. The statewide average salary for high school teachers is $60,054 (WOIS).

High school teachers who coach sports or supervise other extracurricular activities may be paid extra for their work. In addition, teachers who have add-on endorsements to teach additional subjects may have better employment opportunities.
What Washington universities offer Secondary Education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Washington U.</th>
<th>*U. of Washington- Bothell</th>
<th>Pacific Lutheran University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Please note that CWU-Des Moines and UW-Tacoma do not offer the secondary education certification)</td>
<td>Washington State U.</td>
<td>Saint Martin’s University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Washington U.</td>
<td>*The Evergreen State College</td>
<td>Seattle University (ESL cert only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Washington U.</td>
<td>City University</td>
<td>Seattle Pacific University</td>
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<tr>
<td>*U. of Washington-Seattle</td>
<td>Gonzaga University</td>
<td>*Univ. of Puget Sound</td>
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<td>Heritage University</td>
<td>*Walla Walla College</td>
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<td>Northwest University</td>
<td>Whitworth University</td>
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*These schools only offer a Master’s in Teaching program which also grants you a teaching certificate.

Prerequisite courses and minimum GPAs:

If you are interested in becoming a high school teacher, you will want to pursue a transfer degree. Complete the Associate of Arts degree unless you plan to teach in the Sciences and then you may want to consider completing an Associate of Science degree. You will need to identify a subject that you wish to teach and pursue that as your major at the baccalaureate level. Then you will complete post-baccalaureate training at a university to become certified as a teacher.

While attending Highline, consider completing the following classes:

- English &101 and 205
- CMST& 220
- Math &107 or 111 or &146 (if your major is not in Math or Science)
- Psychology &100 and 200
- Educ& 202

Admission to most Education programs requires a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.75.

Speaking a foreign language such as Spanish can make you more marketable as a teacher. In addition, it is helpful to take courses that will prepare you for the major that you will pursue when you transfer to a four year university.

Besides the classes listed, it may be advantageous to volunteer or work with children or teens. Admission into an Education program will require that you pass the WEST-B exam.

Where can I get more information on this career?

Web Resources:

- WEST-B and WEST-E
  www.west.nesinc.com
- OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction — Washington)
  www.K12.wa.us/
- National Center for Education Information
  www.ncei.com
- Washington Education Association
  www.washingtonea.org
- National Science Teachers Association
  www.nsta.org
- www.teachwashington.org
- Washington Federation of Teachers
  www.wa.aft.org/

How do I get a faculty advisor?

To request a faculty advisor, go to: http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php or drop in at the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, visit http://edplanning.highline.edu