Note: Highline Community College does not offer this major. However, you can complete many of the pre-requisite courses at Highline. Every effort has been made to provide current, accurate publication content. Always verify the admission information with your intended university.

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 specialist 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.

The statewide median salary for secondary teacher salaries is $57,547. In Washington State, the average entry level salary is $44,170.
What Washington universities offer Secondary Education?

Central Washington U.  Washington State U.  Saint Martin’s University
(Please note that CWU-Des Moines and UW-Tacoma do not offer the secondary education certification)
Eastern Washington U.
Western Washington U.
*U. of Washington-Seattle
*U. of Washington-Bothell

Eastern Washington U.
Washington State U.
*The Evergreen State College
City University
Gonzaga University
Heritage University
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University

Washington State U.
Saint Martin’s University
Seattle University
Seattle Pacific University
Univ. of Puget Sound
Walla Walla College
Whitworth University

*Please note: These colleges only offer the Secondary Education as a post-Baccalaureate degree only.

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.

While attending Highline, consider completing the following classes:

English &101 and 205
CMST& 220
Math &107, 111, &146 (if your major is not in Math or Science)
Anthropology &206
Psychology &100
Education 110

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

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
  http://www.west.nesinc.com
- OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction — Washington)
  http://www.K12.wa.us/
- National Center for Education Information
  http://ncei.com
- Washington Education Association
  http://www.washingtonea.org
- National Science Teachers Association
  http://nsta.org
- www.teachwashington.org
- Washington Federation of Teachers
  http://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, go to http://edplanning.highline.edu/