

SECONDARY EDUCATION – MAJOR STEPS –

Thinking about a career as a junior high or high school teacher?

Is teaching high school or junior high students right for you?

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 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.

Recommended classes to complete in High School

- Advanced Algebra
- Four years of English
- Two to three years of Science
- Two or more years of a World Language
- Develop technology skills
- Tutor or do volunteer work with children or teens

Work with your faculty advisor

Your faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. A faculty advisor can provide you with advice about class selection and sequencing, internships, and the different university degree programs. Since you will major in the

subject area you plan to teach in, you can select an advisor from your future discipline or from the education department. To request an advisor, email edplanning@highline.edu or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising

Center (EPAC) located in Building 6. EPAC's drop-in hours are as follows:
8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon & Tues
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Wed & Thur
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday
EPAC closed 2-3 Thur

How can you prepare for secondary teaching while attending Highline?

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.

While attending Highline, consider completing the following classes:

Writing 101 and 105

Speech 213

Math 107, 111, 210*

Anthropology 202*

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.

*Talk to an advisor about the courses that would be most helpful to you.

“Every day I feel that I am building knowledge and confidence.”
Devon Keefe

Washington Public Colleges and Universities Offering Secondary Education Programs

All websites begin with <http://www>

Central Washington U.
cwu.edu/~cert/index.html

Eastern Washington U.
ewu.edu/x3359.xml

Western Washington U.
wce.wvu.edu/

U. of Washington-Seattle
depts.washington.edu/coe/

U. of Washington- Bothell
depts.washington.edu/coe/

Washington State U.
Futurestudents.wsu.edu/academics/fos/study.asp?ID=EDUC

The Evergreen State College

Evergreen.edu/mit/

(Please note that CWU-Des Moines and UW-Tacoma do not offer the secondary education certification)

Washington Private Colleges and Universities Offering Secondary Education Programs

City University
cityu/soe

Gonzaga University
Robertsptizer.com/Academics/Colleges-and-Schools/Schools-of-Education/

Heritage University
heritage.edu

Northwest University
Northwestu.edu/

Pacific Lutheran University
Plu.edu%5educ/home/html

Saint Martins University
stmartin.edu

Seattle University
seattleu.edu

Trinity Lutheran College
tlc.edu/secondary-education

University of Puget Sound
ups.edu/education.xml

Walla Walla College
www.edu/

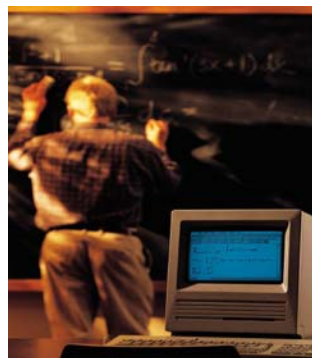
Whitworth Universtiy
whitworth.edu/Academic/Department/Education/Index.asp

Employment for Secondary Teachers

Currently, there are 16,548 high school teachers employed in the state of Washington. (WA. State Department of Employment Security, 2004). By 2009, it is projected that there will be 17,866 teachers and then by 2014 there will be 19,317 teachers in the state. From 2004-2009, the profession will grow at an average rate when compared to other professions. Between 2009 and 2014, the profession is expected to grow faster than the average for occupations and this is an 8.1% increase.

Most teachers are employed by public or private schools but some work in social service and government agencies.

There is a high demand need



for teachers in the Sciences, Math, Special Education and Technology. Earning endorsements in more than one discipline can be advantageous to employment. The ability to speak a second language will also enhance employability.

High School teachers can advance to positions that require special knowledge such as counseling, reading specialist or librarian.

Baccalaureate Degrees vs. Post-Baccalaureate Degrees

You can pursue your teaching credentials as part of your bachelor's degree or as a post-baccalaureate education certification. It is important to know that some schools only offer their Secondary Education programs to students who have already completed their Bachelor's

degree. For example, the UW-Seattle only offers a secondary education degree as a post-baccalaureate program. Check the schools you are considering to see if they only offer a post-baccalaureate option.

Remember that some schools that offer Elementary Education do not offer Secondary Education programs. Central Washington University at Des Moines and the UW-Tacoma do not offer Secondary Education programs at this time.

"Inspirational teaching means seeking to inspire students to love the subject first rather than just teaching them to pass exams."

Kathy Megyeri
English teacher

Salary and Benefits for Secondary Education Teachers

In Washington, the average salary is \$37,302 for entering level high school teachers. Half of all high school teachers earn between \$40,165 and \$56,699 per year. Salaries increase annually according to the number of years of teaching and the number of credits a teacher has earned after a bachelor's degree. Advising



extracurricular activities and clubs or coaching a sports team generate more salary.

Full time teachers usually have benefits that include medical insurance, sick leave and a retirement plan. Teachers are off in the summer but most take classes or participate in professional development during this time.

Educational Planning and Advising MS 6-10
P.O. 98000
Des Moines, WA. 98198

Phone: 206-878-3710 ext 3584
Fax: 206-870-3772

E-mail: edplanning@highline.edu

Education Faculty Advisors

Alicja Baker ext. 3789, abaker@highline.edu

Jodi Golden-White, ext. 6083, jgolden@highline.edu

Joan Graham (Coordinator) ext. 3789, abaker@highline.edu

Patricia McDonald ext. 3405, pmacdona@highline.edu

Kathy Oberg ext. 3460, koberg@highline.edu

*206-878-3710

Every effort has been made to provide accurate and timely information for this publication but students should seek additional information from the universities that they attending .

YOUR FUTURE
BEGINS TODAY.

[www.highline.edu/
stuserv/edplanning](http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning)

Other Resources for Secondary Education

WEB

All start with <http://www>.

OSPI (The Office of the
Superintendent of Public
Instruction—Washington)

K12.wa.us/

National Center for
Education Information
ncei.com

Wash. Education Assoc.
wa.nea.org

WEST-B and WEST-E
west.nesinc.com/

ESL

siuc.edu/~cesl/index.html

Exceptional Children

[cec.sped.org//AM/
Template.cfm?
Section=Home](http://cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home)

Music Teachers National
Associate
mtna.org

National Council of
Teachers of Mathematics
nctm.org

National Sciences Teachers
Association
nsta.org

Teacher Salary Resources
[aft.org/research/salary/
home.htm](http://aft.org/research/salary/home.htm)

Books

[Career Opportunities in
Education](#) by Susan
Echaore-McDavid, 2000

[Inside Secrets for Finding a
Teaching Job](#) by Jack
Warner, second edition,
2003

