

Major Planning Guide: Secondary Education

What can I do with a degree in secondary education?

Students who are interested in secondary education usually plan to teach middle or high school after graduation. Most students are motivated by a strong desire to work with adolescents and help them succeed academically and socially. Most education majors plan to become classroom teachers, but some will go on to pursue other related careers.

Related Majors/Endorsements

Secondary Education	Bilingual Education
Educational Studies	Science Education
Special Education	Physical Education
Teaching English as a Second Language	Music Education
Social Science	Language Arts

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in secondary education in Washington?

It is uncommon to find bachelor's program in secondary education, but certain universities like CWU-Des Moines and Seattle Pacific University offer it as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find secondary education programs in Washington state or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in secondary education?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that secondary education is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in education, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Most programs in secondary education require a strong preparation in the subject matter that the student plans to teach. For example, a student who plans to teach math should major in math as an undergraduate. A student who hopes to teach social studies will usually major in history.
- Some universities do not offer an undergraduate major in secondary education. If you want the option of earning a bachelor's in education, make sure the university you intend to transfer to offers a bachelor's in the variety of education you hope to study.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in secondary education often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree. Advisors can help students understand what courses to take for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([purple sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in secondary education at a university usually take general education requirements, to prepare to transfer. You should consult with an advisor at Seattle Central to make sure you take the appropriate courses to be prepared to enter the major. Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.

What is the academic path to become an elementary school teacher?

Public schools and some private schools in the United States require teachers to have valid teaching certificate, and requires separate certification for each state. Students who plan to teach secondary school have a variety of educational pathways for receiving a teaching certificate. Some universities offer secondary education as an undergraduate major; graduates of those programs can teach with a bachelor's degree. Other universities – such as the University of Washington-Seattle and Seattle University – do not offer secondary education as an undergraduate major. A student who wanted to attend that university and become a teacher should choose a major in the field he/she plans to teach and plan to do a post-baccalaureate or master's-level education program to earn the teaching certificate.

Most programs in secondary education require a strong preparation in the subject matter that the student plans to teach. For example, a student who plans to teach math should major in math as an undergraduate. A student who hopes to teach social studies will usually major in history. In addition to the major field of study, a student can add additional endorsements that authorize the student to teach other subjects. Endorsements are available in many specific academic fields, such as chemistry or Spanish, as well as broader areas such as special education, bilingual education and TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language), and literacy.

What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in secondary education you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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