FAQ for Secondary Teaching Students

When can I start taking Education courses? We require sophomore standing to begin Education courses. Start with EDU 201, 202, and 203.

What can I take as a freshman? You can take courses in general education and start on your teaching major. Pay attention when choosing a major. Some majors don’t lead to teaching endorsements (business and religion, for example) and some aren’t in demand for teaching jobs (P.E. for example).

What majors count for teaching? Most majors taught as subjects in middle and high schools will work, but check with the Education Department or look in the current catalog for up-to-date list. Business, religion, psychology, communications, and psychology do not have endorsements associated with them and so won’t work for teaching.

Which teaching areas are more in demand? Math, sciences, music and special education are currently the most in demand.

Which teaching areas are not in demand? PE (health and fitness) and social studies/history are the two hardest areas for teachers to get teaching positions. Art can also be difficult since most high schools may only one or two teachers in this area.

What can I do to make myself more marketable? 1. In the catalog there are three broad area endorsements: Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. These broad area endorsements allow you to teach multiple subjects in a field and will make you more attractive as a teacher. 2. Choose an area such as the sciences which have a higher demand. 3. Add a special education minor to your major. 4. Use every opportunity you get to be in schools and working with students.

When do I get an Education Advisor? After you have completed EDU 201, 202, 203 you will apply for the program and then be assigned an advisor.

What should I do for advising before I am admitted? Any education faculty in the undergraduate program will gladly assist you until you are admitted and given an advisor. Dr. Barb Sanders is the secondary program coordinator and is available for advising.

Can I major in Special Education? No. At Whitworth College, this area is a minor. You will need to add this minor to a teaching major.

Do I take EDU 321 right after EDU 320? 320 is a prerequisite for 321, but they do not have to be sequential.
When do I take all the other Education courses? Once you have been admitted and have completed EDU 320, you may take courses such as EDU 321, 350, and 401. These courses do not have a specific time frame in which to be taken.