

**U.S. News & World Report and National Council on Teacher Quality
Launch Comprehensive Review of Nation's Teacher Preparation Programs**

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Washington, D.C. – [U.S. News & World Report](#) and the [National Council on Teacher Quality \(NCTQ\)](#) today announce the launch of a landmark survey of more than 1,000 schools of education across the country. Unprecedented in its scope and comprehensiveness, the project will rate the quality of teacher training programs currently producing over 200,000 teachers every year.

The new rating survey, to be published in the second half of 2012, will be useful for both consumers and policymakers. Teacher education is a critical national issue, and preliminary data indicates that there are wide variances in the quality of programs. Aspiring teachers will be able to identify which programs will best prepare them for the classroom, and school districts will know where they should target their recruitment efforts for new hires. Education leaders, from university presidents and state superintendents of education to state legislators, will be able to evaluate best—and worst – practices across all 50 states.

“We now know beyond any shadow of a doubt that teacher effectiveness is the single biggest school-based contributor to learning,” said Kate Walsh, President of NCTQ. “And just like in every other profession, the quality of their training has a tremendous impact on how well teachers perform. The only way we will meet the challenge of ensuring that all our country’s students get the excellent teachers they deserve is to transform teacher preparation.”

U.S. News has long ranked graduate schools of education as part of its college and university ranking guides. The new teacher education review is a separate survey which will be a much more detailed examination of a wide variety of graduate and undergraduate programs.

“We want to know what teachers are being taught,” said Brian Kelly, editor of U.S. News. “We’re partnering with NCTQ because they’ve developed a great methodology to look deeply into these important institutions and compare them across the country.”

NCTQ and U.S. News will award grades to each of the programs under review. They will identify the top schools of education in the country as well as the institutions whose program designs fall so far below standard that they leave their graduates ill equipped to teach.

Programs will be rated by their performance on [17 different standards](#), which were developed by evaluating [the highest caliber research on education, best practices from both the U.S. and foreign countries with excellent educational systems](#) and the counsel of an expert [technical panel](#). These standards cover crucial elements of the design of a teacher training program: from the selectivity of their admissions process to how well they prepare their candidates to teach reading, from the classroom management training they provide to the quality of their student

teaching programs. The standards are calibrated for undergraduate and graduate levels, and can be applied to programs that prepare elementary, secondary and special education teachers.

Program ratings will be derived from a digest of course materials (including course syllabi and textbooks) supplied by education schools themselves, as well as surveys and other publicly available information.

NCTQ honed its methodology for the national review by conducting a number of similar, smaller studies across the past decade, most recently of the teacher preparation programs of [Texas](#) and [Illinois](#). Those reports revealed the wide variability of the design quality of teacher training programs -- even within a single institution -- and have provoked calls for reform.

Founded in 2000, NCTQ advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies at the federal, state, and local levels in order to increase the number of effective teachers. NCTQ is a non-partisan research organization dedicated to increasing public awareness about the current structure of the teaching profession and informing a comprehensive policy reform agenda.

U.S. News & World Report is part of the U.S. News Media Group, a publisher of news and consumer information including an extensive array of rankings and data sources that help readers make important decisions.

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