

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **YouthTruth Findings Show Room for Improvement in Teachers' Knowledge of Subjects They Teach**

*NCTQ releases list of education colleges most effective at preparing teachers with content knowledge.*

**San Francisco** - High school teachers may not be getting sufficient opportunities and training to learn the very subjects they are teaching - and students are taking notice - according to new findings from YouthTruth Student Survey and a new analysis on education colleges conducted by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ).

According to new findings released by YouthTruth, a national nonprofit that harnesses students' perceptions to help educators identify needs and accelerate improvements, 32 percent of high school students do not feel positively about their teachers' content knowledge of the subject matter being taught.

"Across the country, with changing academic standards and increasingly diverse learning environments, the role of teachers is of paramount importance," said YouthTruth's Executive Director Jen Vorse Wilka. "At YouthTruth, it has always been our goal to represent students' voices as the catalyst for positive improvements in schools and districts. With this latest round of findings, we hope education colleges across the country can focus on giving future teachers a strong foundation for content knowledge, so that they are as prepared as possible for the reality of the classroom."

Drawing on responses from nearly 130,000 high school students across the country, the findings also identified that only 67 percent of students surveyed are challenged by their teachers and their coursework. Additionally, only 59 percent of students reported that their homework assignments help them understand the subject.

[Research](#) has shown that teachers' mastery of content knowledge is directly correlated with how effectively they communicate subjects to students. Undergraduate programs are responsible for ensuring that future high school teachers receive meaningful subject matter preparation so that they can pass this information along to their students. According to a new NCTQ data analysis, 35 colleges and universities across 16 states - among 800 measured - are both selective in which teacher candidates they admit and demonstrate effectiveness in preparing future teachers for knowledge in their anticipated subject areas. That list of colleges and universities can be found below.

"Teachers deserve the opportunity to be prepared, and we congratulate these colleges and universities for leading the pack in taking steps to give teachers a solid base in subject knowledge," said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. "The most critical step is to make sure that the coursework is rigorous and strong, holding students accountable for achieving mastery in the subjects they intend to teach."

Consumers can now view information on these 35 programs, as well as other education colleges, universities and alternative certification programs on [Path to Teach](#), a free search tool allowing anyone to quickly find meaningful, reliable information about the quality of over 1,100 schools of education that prepare over 200,000 new teachers every year.

The 35 colleges and universities stood out for earning an “A” on NCTQ’s “high school content standard,” which considers specific state regulations on teacher certification standards as well as individual institutions’ course content offerings, degree plans and admissions selectivity. All education programs are scored through four major steps of analysis:

1. Examination of secondary certifications offered in each state.
2. Evaluation of licensure test adequacy for each certification.
3. Identification of the majors leading to certification for each program.
4. If licensure tests are not adequate for a specific certification, examination of the coursework preparation required by individual secondary majors.

### ***About YouthTruth Student Survey***

YouthTruth is a national nonprofit that harnesses student perceptions to help educators accelerate improvements in their K–12 schools and classrooms. Through validated survey instruments and tailored advisory services, YouthTruth partners with schools, districts, states and educational organizations to enhance learning for all students. Since 2008, YouthTruth has surveyed hundreds of thousands of students in 33 states and four countries, including Russia, Thailand and Singapore. For more information, visit [www.youthtruthsurvey.org](http://www.youthtruthsurvey.org).

### ***About the National Council on Teacher Quality***

The National Council on Teacher Quality is a nonpartisan research and policy group committed to modernizing the teaching profession based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. NCTQ recognizes that it is not teachers who bear responsibility for their profession's many challenges, but the institutions with the greatest authority and influence over teachers. To that end NCTQ works to achieve fundamental changes in the policy and practices of teacher preparation programs, school districts, state governments and teachers unions. NCTQ’s [Board of Directors](#) and [Advisory Board](#) come from a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives, and they all believe that policy changes are overdue in the recruitment and retention of teachers. More information about NCTQ can be found on the website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org).

<b><i>State</i></b>	<b><i>University</i></b>	<b><i>Degree Routes</i></b>
<i>AZ</i>	<i>University of Arizona</i>	<i>English Language Arts, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, General Science, History, Political Science/Government, Economics</i>
<i>CA</i>	<i>Mills College</i>	<i>English, Mathematics, Science: Chemistry, Science: Biological Sciences, Social Science</i>
<i>CA</i>	<i>University of California - Irvine</i>	<i>Mathematics, Foundational Level Mathematics, Science: Physics, Science: Chemistry, Science: Biological Sciences, Science: Geosciences, Foundational-Level General Science</i>
<i>IA</i>	<i>Coe College</i>	<i>English/Language Arts - All, English/Language Arts, Mathematics, All Science II, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Science, American History, American Government, World History, Economics, Sociology</i>

IA	University of Iowa	English/Language Arts, Mathematics, All Science II, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Science, Earth Science, American History, American Government, World History, Economics, Psychology, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology
IN	Indiana University - Bloomington	Language Arts, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Earth/Space Science, Historical Perspectives, Government and Citizenship, Economics, Psychology, Geographical Perspectives, Sociology
MA	Gordon College	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History
MI	Hope College	English, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth/Space Science, Social Studies, History
MN	Gustavus Adolphus College	Communication Arts/Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Social Studies
MN	St. Olaf College	Communication Arts/Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Social Studies
MN	University of Minnesota - Duluth	Communication Arts/Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Social Studies
MN	University of Minnesota - Morris	Communication Arts/Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Social Studies
MN	University of Northwestern - St. Paul	Communication Arts/Literature, Mathematics, Social Studies
MN	University of St. Thomas	Communication Arts/Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Social Studies
MO	Missouri University of Science and Technology	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Science
MO	William Jewell College	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Science
NC	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, History
NC	University of North Carolina at Asheville	English, Mathematics, Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, Social Studies

NC	University of North Carolina at Wilmington	English, Mathematics, Science, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, Social Studies
NY	Ithaca College	English Language Arts, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies
NY	Marist College	English Language Arts, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies
OH	Ohio Northern University	Integrated Language Arts, Integrated Mathematics, Integrated Science, Physical Sciences: Physics & Chemistry, Physical Sciences: Physics, Physical Sciences: Chemistry, Life Sciences, Integrated Social Studies
OH	Ohio Wesleyan University	Integrated Language Arts, Integrated Mathematics, Physical Sciences: Physics, Physical Sciences: Chemistry, Life Sciences, Earth Sciences, Integrated Social Studies
OK	University of Oklahoma	English, Advanced Mathematics, Intermediate Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Earth Science, United States History/Oklahoma History/Government/Economics
SC	Clemson University	English, Mathematics, Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies
SC	College of Charleston	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies
SC	Furman University	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies
TN	Lipscomb University	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History
TN	Maryville College	English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, History
TN	Union University	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Government
TN	University of Tennessee	English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, History, Government, Economics, Geography
TX	St. Edward's University	English Language Arts and Reading, Mathematics, Chemistry, Life Science, History
TX	Texas Tech University	English Language Arts and Reading, Mathematics, Science, Mathematics/Physical Science/Engineering, Physical Science, Physics/Mathematics, Chemistry, Life Science, Social Studies, History
WA	Gonzaga University	English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies, History
WA	Whitworth University	English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies, History