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Contact
Stephen Buckley
National Council on Teacher Quality
sbuckley@nctq.org
(202) 393-0020 ext. 129

NCTQ RELEASES NEWEST TEACHER PREP RATINGS IDENTIFYING TOP PROGRAMS PREPARING HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

*ALTHOUGH MANY PROGRAMS DO WELL ON SOME ASPECTS OF TEACHER PREPARATION,
OTHERS STILL STRUGGLE TO DELIVER TRAINING FUNDAMENTALS;
MAJOR WEAKNESSES FOUND IN PREP FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS*

ASBURY UNIVERSITY RANKS TOP IN KENTUCKY & IN TOP 25 PERCENT NATIONALLY; TWO KENTUCKY PROGRAMS RANK AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

Washington DC – Today, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) releases its latest ratings for 717 undergraduate programs that prepare high school teachers, including 13 in Kentucky.

None of the 16 programs on NCTQ's list of "National Top Tier Secondary Teacher Prep Programs" are located in Kentucky. The closest "Top Tier" program is Lipscomb University in neighboring Tennessee.

Programs achieve "Top Tier" status by having solid admission standards, providing sufficient preparation in each teacher candidate's intended subject area, and showing candidates how best to teach that subject. Many also do well in evaluating candidates on how to manage a classroom and providing AND ensuring the high quality of practice opportunities.

Teacher Prep Programs in Kentucky

One program in Kentucky does relatively well; Asbury University ranks in the 76th percentile nationally.

However, the state has two programs falling in the bottom 10 percent--Kentucky State University in the 9th percentile and Lindsey Wilson College in the 3rd percentile.

Key National Findings: As for overall performance of the 700+ programs, a common problem that surfaced in the analysis is the weak content preparation provided to science and social studies teacher candidates. That weakness contrasts sharply with almost uniformly strong preparation in English and mathematics content in the same institutions. A sizeable portion of programs (43 percent across the country) struggle to prepare teachers who will be qualified to teach the subjects under the umbrella of either science or social studies. For example, even though history is the subject most teachers with general social studies certification will be asked to teach, one out of five programs requires minimal to no history courses of their candidates.

- Through a combination of licensing test and coursework requirements, all programs in Kentucky earn an A for content preparation in the sciences
- Only 50 percent of programs in Kentucky earn an A for content preparation in the social studies, compared to 65 percent of programs nationally

To see how programs in each state perform on their coverage of science go [here](#), and for social studies go [here](#).

Only 42 percent of programs succeed at teaching future teachers both the content and teaching methods for their subject. For a list of these programs in each state, go [here](#).

Nationally:

- A quarter of all programs do not require a course in the best ways to teach a specific subject. One third of secondary programs in Kentucky do not require teacher candidates to take a methods course in the subject area they will be certified to teach.
- There are early signs of some programs becoming more selective in their admissions, but it is still the case that 44 percent of programs set the bar too low for who gets into their programs. In Kentucky, 73 percent of programs do not draw most of their teacher candidates from the top half of the college-going population. For a list of programs by selectivity, go [here](#).
- Among sufficiently selective programs nationwide, half also meet diversity goals. Asbury University and University of Louisville are both selective and diverse. For a list of selective and diverse programs in each state, go [here](#).
- Only 6 percent of programs pay sufficient attention to the quality of student teaching by establishing an expectation that only skilled teachers should be allowed to mentor a future teacher and requiring student teachers to be regularly observed by program staff. Unfortunately, no programs in Kentucky perform well in this area, primarily because they do not adequately monitor the quality of mentor teachers. For a list of programs with strong student teaching in each state go [here](#).
- Fewer than half of all programs (44 percent) evaluate teacher candidates on their use of the most effective strategies for managing classrooms while student teaching. In Kentucky, 42 percent of programs do so. For a list of programs in each state that do well on classroom management, go [here](#).

Recommendations: Based on this research, NCTQ recommends that states make sure that high school teachers have a deep understanding of the content they will teach students, a goal that can be met by better licensing tests. Most states, including Kentucky, are overdue for revamping their licensing tests, as most allow a high score in one subject to compensate for a low score in another. For instance, Kentucky has an inadequate licensing test for Social Studies certification. Currently, only Arizona, Minnesota, and Missouri have strong tests in all core subject areas.

NCTQ also calls on programs to raise subject content requirements to require a solid education in *all* the subjects the future teacher will be licensed to teach, even in the broad categories of science and social studies. For more on what programs do to successfully ensure the preparation of all candidates in science, go [here](#), and for social studies, go [here](#).

This edition of the *Teacher Prep Review* analyzes undergraduate programs preparing secondary school

teachers. The next set of ratings from NCTQ will appear in Fall 2017 and will cover graduate and alternative (or nontraditional) programs preparing elementary teachers. The ratings for graduate and nontraditional secondary programs will follow in Spring 2018, followed by undergraduate and graduate special education programs in Fall 2018.

To read the *Landscape* report, click [here](#). To schedule an interview with NCTQ President Kate Walsh, please contact Stephen Buckley at (202) 393-0020 ext. 129.

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About the National Council on Teacher Quality:

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) is a nonpartisan research and policy group, committed to modernizing the teaching profession and based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. NCTQ is the nation's expert on the quality of teacher preparation programs and evaluates national teacher education against evidence-based criteria. More information about NCTQ can be found on our website, www.nctq.org