

# Appendix D: More on Recommendations

## Next steps for prospective college or graduate students who aspire to enter teaching (and their parents)

**1. Use the NCTQ ratings as an important factor for deciding where to apply.** *U.S. News & World Report* posts high-level data on programs, but more information is available from the NCTQ website, including a detailed “[Program Ranking Sheet](http://www.nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/findings.do)” (<http://www.nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/findings.do>) for each program. Those sheets detail program performance on at least two standards (selection criteria and content preparation), but often for as many as 12 standards. More scores will be added each year. You might find a bargain in the institutions listed in the table below:

Fig. D1 Institutions whose programs are Top Ranked and whose tuitions are relatively low

### Bargain teacher preparation programs: Undergraduate Elementary

Institution	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition	Institution	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition
Texas A&M University	\$8,506	\$25,126	Fort Hays State	\$4,358	\$12,821
Northwestern State University of Louisiana	\$6,207	\$16,327	CUNY – Hunter College	\$6,129	\$12,639
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College	\$7,873	\$25,790	Texas A & M University – Corpus Christi	\$7,172	\$15,668
University of Houston	\$8,401	\$16,897	Ball State	\$9,160	\$24,124
Eastern Connecticut State	\$9,376	\$20,881	Delta State	\$6,562	\$6,562

### Bargain teacher preparation programs: Undergraduate Secondary

Institution	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition	Institution	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition
Western Governors	\$6,070	\$6,070	Hunter College	\$6,129	\$12,639
Fort Hays State	\$4,352	\$12,821	Southeastern Louisiana University	\$5,715	\$17,734
Henderson State	\$7,580	\$13,700	University of North Carolina – Wilmington	\$6,343	\$18,480
Austin Peay State University	\$6,876	\$21,372	Murray State University	\$7,044	\$19,164
University of Houston	\$8,401	\$16,897	Tennessee Technological University	\$7,073	\$22,063

*The in-state tuitions of the institutions listed above are less than the average in-state tuitions of institutions whose programs are the 50 lowest ranked programs.*

**2. When touring a campus or contacting the institution, query officials about their rankings.** If the programs you are interested in have scores on only a few standards, suggest that the institutions provide NCTQ with data so that they can be fully evaluated.

**3. If you cannot find a program with a strong program ranking in your area, use whatever positive scores are available to make the best decision possible.**

For example, if you are interested in becoming an elementary teacher, look for a program that, if nothing else, does well (nearly meets or meets the standard) in **Early Reading** (Standard 2) or **Elementary Mathematics** (Standard 5).

If you are interested in becoming a secondary teacher, look for the program that does the best job preparing you in your content area (**Standard 7** or **Standard 8**). It will be very hard to make up deficiencies in content mastery after graduating without paying for more courses.

**4. Be willing to go further afield than you might otherwise have considered.** Look across state lines. The fact that you graduate from a top-performing program, no matter where it is located, will be appealing to school districts. (Many states are working to improve licensure portability.)

## Next steps for current students who are already enrolled in a teacher preparation program (and their parents)

**1. Find out how your program performed in detail.** The most extensive information is the [Program Ranking Sheet](http://www.nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/findings.do), which is posted on the NCTQ website (<http://www.nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/findings.do>).

**2. If there is no ranking available for any program at your current institution, urge the institution to provide NCTQ with the necessary data.** Copy the university or college president on your email correspondence so your views are certain to be heard.

**3. Ask questions of your professors and program administrators about the NCTQ standards, program rankings and scores on individual standards.** Also direct concerns to the institution's administrators outside the education department or college, so that they know these evaluations matter to you.

**4. Understand how our rankings work and the many misconceptions about them.** You can learn more about those misconceptions and [our responses](http://www.nctq.org/commentary/blog.do?tag=Myth%20buster) to them (<http://www.nctq.org/commentary/blog.do?tag=Myth%20buster>).

**5. Ask your institution to host a forum to discuss the scores and rankings and what action they intend to take.**

**6. If your institution has a policy of not allowing access to syllabi to anyone not enrolled in a course, work to change that policy.** Students at the **University of Maryland** and **University of Missouri** led successful campaigns on their campuses.

**7. If your campus has a chapter of Students for Education Reform, consider joining.**  
<http://www.studentsforedreform.org/>