



Examining Teacher Prep Programs

2016 Southern Legislative Conference

July 9 – 13, 2016

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National Council on Teacher Quality

NCTQ



- Non-partisan research and advocacy non-profit founded in 2000.
- Dedicated to the vision of an excellent teacher in front of every child
- Focused policy and institutional improvement
- Work at federal, state, district, and local levels
- Key projects:
 - State Policy Yearbook
 - Teacher Contract Database
 - Teacher Preparation Review

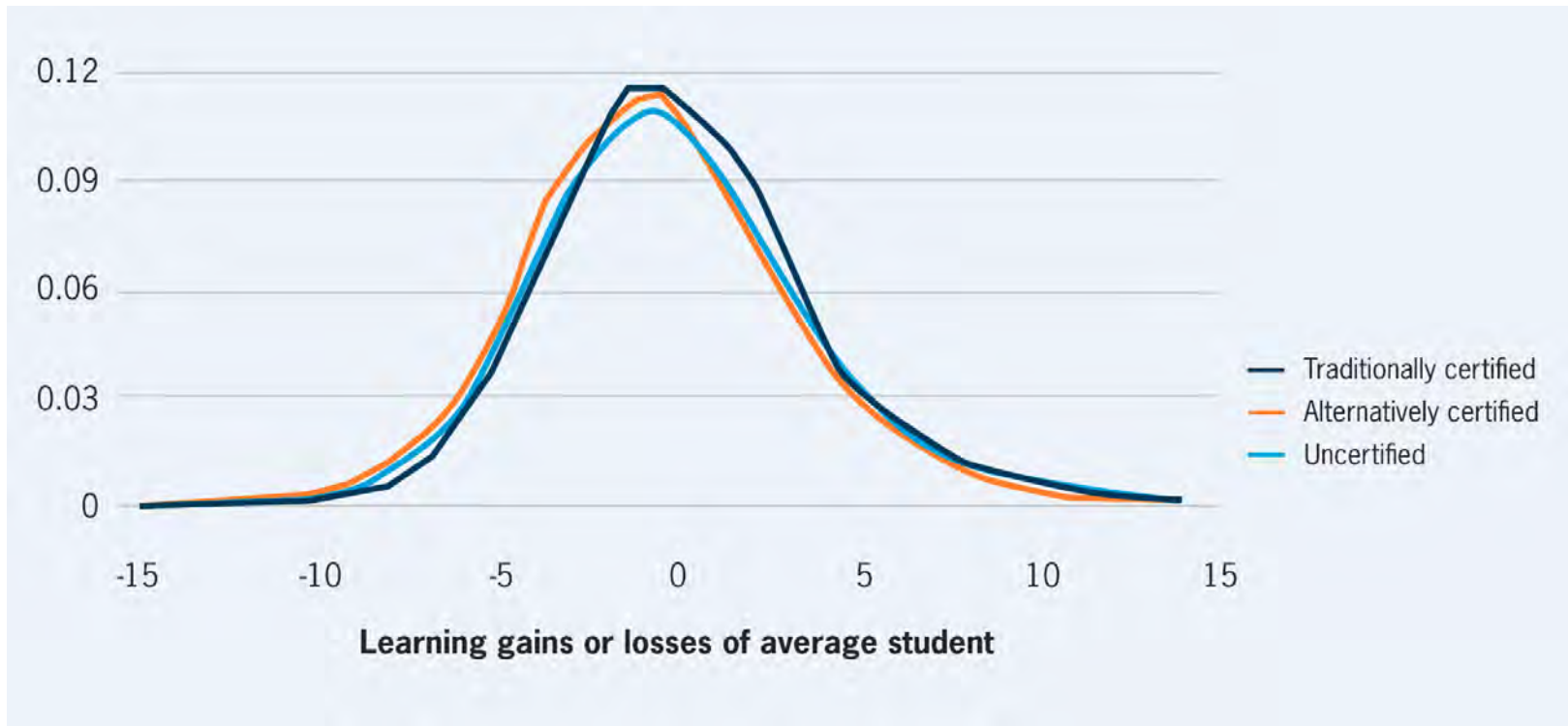


Teacher Prep Review: What?

- Provide indicators of key design elements
 - 2,500 teacher preparation programs
 - 1,200 universities and alternative certification providers
- Applies the same set of standards
 - Specific to elementary, secondary, and special education
 - At both undergraduate and graduate levels
 - Developed over a decade
- First publication in 2013. Updated and expanded in 2014.
- Next update and expansion in fall of 2016.



Teacher Prep Review: Why?





Teacher Prep Review: Data

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Undergraduate Elementary Teacher Prep Program: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Certification

2014 National Ranking:

#6

Only programs whose scores put them in the top half receive a national ranking.

[Find out if this program is among the top performers in its region.](#)

Score Breakdown

Key Standards

Selection Criteria	●
Early Reading	●
Elementary Mathematics	●
Elementary Content	◐
Student Teaching	◐

Booster Standards

English Language Learners	○
Struggling Readers	○
Classroom Management	●
Outcomes	◐

Other Standards

Assessment and Data	◐
Evidence of Effectiveness	NR



Teacher Prep Review: Data

Lipscomb University
Nashville, Tennessee
Undergraduate Secondary Teacher Prep Program

2014 National Ranking:

#1

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Score Breakdown

Key Standards

Selection Criteria	●
Middle School Content	NR
High School Content	●
Student Teaching	●

Booster Standards

Classroom Management	◐
Secondary Methods	●
Outcomes	●

Other Standards

Assessment and Data	●
Evidence of Effectiveness	NR



Teacher Prep Review: Standards

Key Areas

1. Admissions
Are potential teachers very capable academically?
2. Subject matter knowledge
Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?
3. Practice
Do potential teachers have sufficient, structured practice with expert feedback?



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

Admissions

Are potential teachers very capable academically?

Undergraduate

- Is the university selective? (Above average SAT/ACT scores or Barron's rating)
- Is the education department selective? (Above average SAT/ACT scores for admitted students, high GPA admissions requirements, high average GPA of admitted students)

Graduate

- Is the program selective? (High GPA admissions requirements, high average GPA of admitted students, requires GRE or similar test; requires an audition)



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

Subject Matter Knowledge

Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?

For elementary teachers this includes:

- A broad liberal arts background
 - *These folks typically teach all subjects*
- Specific topics focused on teaching children mathematics
 - *These folks need to know how to explain invert and multiply for fraction division*
- How to teach reading
 - *These folks have this awesome responsibility*

Specifically...



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

Subject Matter Knowledge

Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?

A broad liberal arts background means college-level coursework (or equivalent) in:

- World literature, American literature, composition, and children's literature
- Early American history, modern American history/government, ancient world history, modern world history, and geography
- Biology, chemistry, and physics/physical science/earth science (hopefully with one or more lab sections)



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

Subject Matter Knowledge

Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?

Specific topics focused on teaching children mathematics means several college-level courses (or equivalent) focused on topics such as:

- Numbers and operations (systems, place-value, decimals, algorithms, fractions)
- Algebra (variables, equations, graphs & functions)
- Geometry (measurement, plane geometry, polygons, circles, perimeter, area, volume)
- Data and statistics (average, mode, probability, graphs)



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

Subject Matter Knowledge

Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?

How to teach reading means college-level courses (or equivalent) with extensive instruction on the Big Five components of early reading:

- Phonemic awareness (hearing the sounds that make up English)
- Phonics (mapping between sound and written symbols)
- Fluency (ability to reading accurately, quickly, and expressively)
- Vocabulary
- Reading comprehension



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

Practice

Do potential teachers have sufficient, structured practice with expert feedback?

For ALL teachers this includes:

- A semester-long student teaching experience in a classroom with an effective teacher (who is also a capable mentor) providing regular, structured feedback
- That feedback includes guidance on five elements of classroom management (setting behavior expectations; maintaining and managing engagement, time, materials, environment; using praise; managing minor misbehavior; managing severe misbehavior).



Teacher Prep Review: Elementary

To sum up for elementary:

Key Area	Standards
Admissions	Selection criteria
Subject matter knowledge	Elementary reading
	Elementary math
	Elementary content
Practice	Student teaching
	Classroom management



Teacher Prep Review: Secondary

Back to the Key Areas. . .

1. Admissions

Are potential teachers very capable academically?

2. Subject matter knowledge

Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?

3. Practice

Do potential teachers have sufficient, structured practice with expert feedback?

Admissions and practice are identical for elementary and secondary programs.



Teacher Prep Review: Secondary

Subject Matter Knowledge

Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?

For secondary teachers this means:

- A major (or equivalent) in the subject you intend to teach (English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, history, etc.) if the state certification is for a single subjects (biology certification to teach high school biology; chemistry certification to teach HS chemistry; etc.)
- A minor (or equivalent) in at least two relevant subjects if the state certification is multiple subject
-Multiple subject means certification is in more than one subject, like a Science certification which permits you to teach biology, chemistry, or physics.
- A major in history or a minor in history and another relevant social science if the state certification is social studies



Teacher Prep Review: Secondary

To sum up for secondary:

Key Area	Standards
Admissions	Selection criteria
Subject matter knowledge	Middle school content
	High school content
Practice	Student teaching
	Classroom management

Elementary



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Classroom Management	●
Outcomes	◐

Other Standards

Assessment and Data	◐
Evidence of Effectiveness	NR

Secondary



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Outcomes	●

Other Standards

Assessment and Data	●
Evidence of Effectiveness	NR



Forget the details – three questions

- 1. Are potential teachers very capable academically?**
- 2. Do potential teachers know the subjects they will be teaching?**
- 3. Do potential teachers have sufficient, structured practice with expert feedback?**



Want to learn more?

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