

NCATE/TEAC Accreditation for Licensure

Query – 12.9.2009

Query:

In Colorado, we don't require national accreditation by NCATE or TEAC. But one of our institutions is asking me if the teacher candidates they prepare here will have trouble getting licensed in other states if the teacher preparation program they graduated from is not nationally accredited by NCATE or TEAC. Do you know if other states have that as a requirement for licensure?

From: Colorado

Summary of Responses: (N/A means No Answer given by that state's respondent for that question)

| STATE | A) Are in-state teacher education programs required to have TEAC/NCATE accreditation? | B) Are individuals seeking state licensure required to have a degree from a TEAC/NCATE accredited institution? |
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| Alabama | N/A | No, but will face "stiff requirements" |
| Delaware | N/A | No |
| Georgia | Yes, NCATE | No |
| Hawaii | Yes, NCATE | No |
| Idaho | Yes, NCATE | Yes |
| Illinois | No, though state accreditation, which matches NCATE accreditation, is required | N/A |
| Kansas | No, though state accreditation required | N/A |
| Massachusetts | No, though state accreditation required | No, but must pass test within 1 year |
| Minnesota | No, though state accreditation required | No, but must meet state standards |
| Mississippi | Yes, NCATE | N/A |
| Missouri | No, though most are TEAC-accredited | No, only need valid teaching certificate from other state |
| New Jersey | Yes, by NCATE or TEAC | No, but regional accreditation required of out-of-state institution |
| North Carolina | Yes, NCATE | N/A |
| Oklahoma | No, though state accreditation required, which looks like NCATE/TEAC, so most institutions also accredited by NCATE | No, but need to pass 3 tests; also, degree from NCATE-accredited institution may be a factor at hiring time |
| Oregon | No, though state accreditation required; some have NCATE accreditation as well | No, only need valid teaching license from other state |
| Puerto Rico | N/A | No |
| South Dakota | N/A | No, but candidates must have a degree from a regionally accredited institution OR a nationally accredited program |
| Tennessee | Yes, NCATE | N/A |
| Utah | Yes, NCATE or TEAC, mostly TEAC | Yes |
| Vermont | Yes, NCATE | N/A |
| Virginia | Yes, by NCATE, TEAC or state board of ed. | N/A |
| Washington | No, though state accreditation required | No |
| West Virginia | Yes, NCATE | No |
| Wisconsin | No, though state accreditation required | No |
| Wyoming | N/A | Yes |

| Specific Responses: | |
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| West Virginia | <p>The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission requires that its institutions offering educator preparation programs must hold NCATE accreditation. As I understand it, the question refers to the potential recognition of teacher candidates prepared in Colorado. This is not my area of expertise, but a statement contained on our Department of Education’s web site says:</p> <p>“Any teacher who has graduated from a teacher preparation program at a regionally accredited institution of higher education and who holds a valid teaching certificate or certificates issued by another state shall be, upon application, awarded a teaching certificate or certificates for the same grade level or levels and subject area or areas valid in the public schools of WV.”</p> <p><i>Does West Virginia’s teacher licensure requirements include the need to have a degree from an NCATE-accredited institution? That is, when teachers from out-of-state come to West Virginia and wish to teach, do they have to demonstrate that they hold a degree from an NCATE-accredited institution in order to be eligible for licensure in the state?</i></p> <p>No, there is no such requirement in West Virginia.</p> |
| Utah | <p>All of Utah’s public and private teacher education programs must be accredited by either NCATE or TEAC. Most of our institutions have gone with TEAC.</p> <p>The process of accreditation is very important as it raises the level of performance of teacher preparation programs as they look at themselves most critically as they write their self studies and provide evidence that supports their statements of learning goals. (to be read in one breath!)</p> <p>Anyone seeking a state license must be from an accredited institution with either NCATE or TEAC accreditation.</p> <p>Because of the power of the accreditation process, students suggested for licensure are likely to have reached performance goals. Thus, it makes sense to me to require accreditation of the program in order for its graduates to receive licensure.</p> |
| Missouri | <p>Missouri does not require accreditation for its education programs; however, most are NCATE accredited. All that an out-of-state teacher would need to obtain MO certification would be a valid teaching certificate from another state. The certificate would be evaluated and the teacher would be given the comparable MO certificate.</p> |
| Oklahoma | <p>Oklahoma requires all of its teacher ed programs (22 public and private) to be accredited by our state commission (the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation); and this accreditation process closely mirrors that of the national accreditation boards (NCATE and TEAC). Therefore, most of the institutions in our state are nationally accredited (most through NCATE; at this time only one through TEAC) as well as state accredited.</p> <p>All that being said, Oklahoma licensure does not require that a candidate come from an NCATE or TEAC teacher prep program. However, to teach in Oklahoma, one must pass a battery of 3 Oklahoma tests - one covering general knowledge; one, content-specific knowledge; and one, pedagogical knowledge. I believe the State Department</p> |

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| | <p>of Education (the body who issues the licenses in Oklahoma) accepts some out-of-state tests as substitutes, but that varies from state to state.</p> <p>I will add that, anecdotally, administrators say they prefer hiring a teacher who has the NCATE stamp at the end of his/her transcript, so it appears to carry some weight at the hiring level.</p> |
| North Carolina | <p>In North Carolina, NCATE accreditation has long been required for all public UNC institutions as a requirement of the UNC Board of Governors. Until recently in NC, national accreditation was a requirement of the State Board of Education (SBE) for all IHEs (public and private), however recent SBE policy change eliminated this requirement. As a result of this SBE policy change and the UNC Board of Governors policy, UNC public institutions must maintain NCATE accreditation, however national accreditation is now optional for NC private IHEs.</p> |
| Georgia | <p>SHEILA: In Georgia, NCATE accreditation is also required for all public IHEs with ed prep programs.</p> <p>SHARMILA: This is helpful, and different from Colorado. However, I think Ian was getting at a slightly different question: Does Georgia’s teacher licensure requirements include the need to have a degree from an NCATE-accredited institution? That is, when teachers from out-of-state come to Georgia and wish to teach, do they have to demonstrate that they hold a degree from an NCATE-accredited institution in order to be eligible for licensure in the state?</p> <p>SHEILA: No we don't</p> |
| Alabama | <p>There are stiff requirements in Alabama regarding certification of teachers with degrees earned from any institution that does not have Alabama State Board of Education approval.</p> |
| Wyoming | <p>Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board requires that candidates for licensure graduate from a preparation program that is nationally or regionally accredited.</p> |
| Wisconsin | <p>Wisconsin does not require national accreditation for licensure.</p> <p>Just a further point of clarification regarding Wisconsin...all teacher preparation programs, including alternative programs, must be accredited through the state department of public instruction (dpi). We do have several private and public institutions of higher education that also have national NCATE or TEAC accreditation, but it is not required. Teachers who come from out of state must have their credentials reviewed by dpi and must meet specific state requirements in order to receive full licensure in Wisconsin.</p> |
| Hawaii | <p>I am not aware of requirements for an individual to have completed a program that was NCATE or TEAC accredited. I am aware of states that are requiring their teacher education programs pursue national accreditation as part of the state approval process. Hawaii now requires NCATE for all state approved programs.</p> |
| Mississippi | <p>In Mississippi, all teacher preparation programs are accredited through state or national NCATE accreditation.</p> |
| Vermont | <p>> In Mississippi, all teacher preparation programs are accredited > through state or national NCATE accreditation.</p> |

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| | Likewise with Vermont. |
| Kansas | Kansas requires all teacher education programs be reviewed and approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. NCATE or TEAC accreditation is optional. |
| Delaware | Your e-mail was forwarded to me. Delaware would accept candidates if they were certified by Colorado. |
| Tennessee | Tennessee is similar to Mississippi and Vermont. |
| Minnesota | <p>Minnesota's requirements are much like those Francine described in Wisconsin -- all programs in the state must be approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching and must be regionally accredited, but national accreditation by NCATE or TEAC is not a requirement. Individuals licensed in other states are not automatically licensed in Minnesota but have to provide evidence that they have met all Minnesota standards or work with an approved Minnesota teacher preparation program to meet any unmet requirements.</p> <p>All -- just a quick clarification to my previous message that in Minnesota, it is institutions that must be regionally accredited, not teacher education programs. You probably all knew that was what I meant, but I wanted to correct any misperceptions I may have fostered with my earlier comment. And, in case you're interested, attached is a document describing the process for teachers who were prepared out-of-state or on-line and who are seeking a Minnesota license.</p> |
| Illinois | Illinois does not require NCATE or TEAC, however Illinois has adopted the NCATE standards as Illinois standards. Program approval and review aligns with the NCATE standards. |
| South Dakota | <p>I am advised that:</p> <p>“In SD, graduation from an NCATE/TEAC accredited program is not a requirement for licensure. In general, candidates must be graduates of an approved program offered by an institution holding regional accreditation or from an NCATE accredited program.”</p> |
| Massachusetts | <p>Massachusetts is like Minnesota (all teacher prep programs in the state must be approved by the Mass Dept of Elem and Sec Education and must be regionally accredited, but national accreditation by NCATE is not a requirement.)</p> <p>When a practicing teacher moves into MA, he/she will be granted a temporary license (good for 1 year) provided he/she holds a valid educator license from another state of a type comparable to at least an "Initial license" in Massachusetts and has at least three years of employment under such valid license or certificate. The teacher is given 1 year to take/pass the corresponding Mass teacher test and then will be awarded a full MA initial license.</p> |
| Idaho | Idaho accepts the certification from other states that have regionally accredited programs or equivalent in other state when they substantially meet the requirements for the Idaho certificate. Those programs are evaluated by the state using NCATE Standards. |
| Puerto Rico | In Puerto Rico it is not a requirement for teacher licensure. |
| Virginia | <p>Staff at Virginia's Department of Education has forwarded the following response:</p> <p>Virginia requires that its professional education programs (i.e., the unit) be accredited prior to receiving approval for education programs offered in specific endorsement</p> |

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| | <p>areas. Virginia IHEs offering approved programs have an option to choose from NCATE, TEAC or a Board of Education approval process. Information regarding the requirements for accreditation of professional education programs is included in the <i>Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia</i> (Effective September 21, 2007). You may access the regulations at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/newvdoe/teached.html.</p> |
| Oregon | <p>All teacher education programs in Oregon must be accredited through Oregon's professional standards commission (its licensing authority): the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission. The colleges and universities must also hold regional accreditation as IHEs. Eight (of 20) public and private teacher education programs hold NCATE accreditation in addition to TSPC accreditation. Currently, Oregon has no teacher education programs accredited by TEAC. Oregon accepts teaching licenses issued by other states.</p> |
| New Jersey | <p>New Jersey requires of their in-state institutions national accreditation either through the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). For out-of-state institutions, New Jersey requires regional accreditation by one of the six agencies listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; 2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges; 3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; 4. Northwest Association of School and Colleges;- 13 - 5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and 6. Western Association of School and Colleges. |
| Washington | <p>All teacher education programs in Washington must be approved by Washington's Professional Educator Standards Board, but specialized accreditation (NCATE or TEAC) is not required. However, nine out of 22 public and private teacher education programs hold NCATE accreditation, and one holds TEAC accreditation. Washington accepts teacher preparation programs completed in other states, as long as applicants pass a basic skills test (WEST-B) and an endorsement content knowledge test (WEST-E) within 12 months of receiving a temporary permit.</p> |