



## About WGU

### News Brief - 8/21/08

#### Western Governors University Expands Its Online Degrees in Science Education

*Disciplines Include Chemistry, Physics, Biological Sciences and Geosciences*

SALT LAKE CITY -- The need for highly-qualified science teachers is greater than ever. There are thousands of teacher job openings every year, and school districts struggle to find qualified science teachers, especially in chemistry and physics. The WGU Teachers College now offers 10 accredited online science education degree programs designed for current or aspiring educators who wish to teach chemistry, physics, biology, earth science (geosciences) or general science.

Founded by 19 U.S. governors to expand access to higher education, Western Governors University is the only exclusive online university accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The leader in teacher education accreditation, NCATE sets robust and stringent standards for teacher training in all areas of the discipline.

Enrollment is now open for students seeking a bachelor's degree and initial licensure for middle school general science or high school chemistry, physics, biology or earth science. These degree programs give each student the content knowledge and effective teaching skills needed to become a highly qualified science teacher. Already licensed teachers who wish to earn a secondary science certification can choose from master's degrees in the same disciplines.

As part of their degree program, students will be required to complete lab assignments. The labs and all required materials will be shipped to the students to allow the students to perform experiments at home.

WGU's personalized competency-based education approach makes it possible for students to accelerate their programs and complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree in two to four years or a master's degree in 18 to 24 months. The actual time to completion will depend on the incoming student's prior college, experience, and time commitment to study.

Tuition at WGU is very affordable at \$2,890 per six-month term. This is less than half of what other reputable online universities typically charge. Enrollments are open continuously and new cohorts begin each month. Scholarships are available for rural educators through a Department of Labor grant.

To learn more about these degrees please visit [www.wgu.edu/education/science\\_degrees.asp](http://www.wgu.edu/education/science_degrees.asp) or call toll-free 1-866-225-5948.

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**Contact for enrollment information:**

866-225-5948

**APPLY TODAY** >>

- Accreditation
- Financial Aid
- Is online study for you?
- Student Success and Performance Data
- WGU Student Experience
- See videos of past graduation ceremonies 

**"Competency-based..."**

"I like the idea of a competency-based program. In some areas I already had expertise and skills so I could take an independent study class and build the portfolio and take the exams. In other areas I needed more instruction."

—Gretchen Burr, WGU graduate, high school teacher

**"I am an expert..."**

"Western Governors has raised the bar for online courses. Instead of graduating from their courses and saying, "I have passed all of the requirements," they want their students to say, "I graduated from WGU and I am an expert in the field of..."

—Jeffrey Cravy, WGU graduate student

**"Competency-based..."**

"Google has pioneered the idea of access to information. The reason Google thinks WGU is such a good idea is because WGU has pioneered the concept of competency-based education whenever you want it."

—Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google Inc.

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