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WGU Leads the U.S. in STEM Teaching Grads, 1/6/14



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News Brief - 1/6/14

Western Governors University Leads the U.S. in STEM Teaching Grads

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Online university is the nation's largest producer of math and science teachers

SALT LAKE CITY — Western Governors University, www.wgu.edu, the nonprofit, online university with more than 43,000 students in all 50 states, is leading the U.S. in educating math and science teachers, according to a report by higher education research and consulting firm Eduventures. In 2012, WGU was the top overall producer of STEM teaching graduates and led the nation in the following specific degree areas:

- #1 in master's degrees in mathematics education
- #1 in bachelor's and master's degrees in biology education
- #1 in bachelor's and master's degrees in earth science education
- #1 in master's degrees in physics education
- #2 in master's degrees in middle school science education
- #2 in bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry education
- #4 in bachelor's degrees in physics education

The first online teachers college to earn accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), WGU's Teachers College offers degrees leading to teacher licensure as well as master's degrees in education and education administration. Established in 2003 with the support of the U.S. Department of Education, the Teachers College has more than 11,000 enrolled students and an additional 11,000 graduates. In 2013, WGU was the only online university to be recognized by the National Council on Teacher Quality's Honor Roll.

"Preparing effective STEM educators is a national priority, and from the inception of our Teachers College, WGU has been focused on developing and delivering high-quality math and science education programs," said Dr. Philip Schmidt, Dean of WGU's Teachers College. "The tremendous growth of these programs in less than 10 years is evidence of the need for them as well as their quality."

Like all of WGU's degree programs, the university's teacher education programs are competency-based, an approach that focuses on measuring learning rather than time spent in class. Designed to meet the needs of busy adults with work and family obligations, competency-based learning allows students to advance as soon as they demonstrate mastery of course subject matter. Students have 24/7 access to course materials, studying and learning on their own schedules with the individualized support and guidance of faculty mentors. Because they can move quickly through material they already know, many students can accelerate their time to graduation; the average time to earn a bachelor's degree at WGU is about three years.

Tuition at WGU is affordable—about \$3,000 per six-month term for teacher education programs—and it is charged at a flat rate, regardless of the number of courses taken. The university is committed to keeping costs as low as possible; tuition has not increased since 2008.

More information about WGU's Teachers College can be found at http://www.wgu.edu/education/online_teaching_degree.

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NBC News Reports on WGU



"The dreams of 19 governors have become [WGU Grad Angie Gonzalez's] dream fulfilled."

—Tom Costello
NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams

[Watch the video](#) »

Featured News

Find out why Fast Company calls WGU one of the world's 50 most-innovative companies, CNN says we're "a school without boundaries," and major news outlets from NPR to Bloomberg BusinessWeek are touting WGU's "potential to transform the higher education industry."

[Read about WGU in the news](#) »

Why We Are Different

WGU has an innovative learning model for helping working adults earn bachelor's and master's degrees. Learn more about how it can help you.

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- Tuition and Financial Aid
- About WGU
- Academic Experience

WGU Resources

- Employment at WGU
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Degrees & Programs

TEACHERS COLLEGE

- Teacher Licensure Programs
- Graduate Programs for Licensed Teachers

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- Business Bachelor's Degrees
- Business Master's Degrees

WGU State Institutions

- WGU Indiana
- WGU Missouri
- WGU Tennessee

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- IT Bachelor's Degrees
- IT Master's Degrees

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Healthcare Bachelor's Degrees
- Healthcare Master's Degrees