



The Standard of Excellence  
in Teacher Preparation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **U. S. News Recognizes NCATE Accreditation as a Standard of Quality in Rankings of Ed Schools**

### **First Time Best Ed School Rankings Include NCATE Status**

Washington, D.C. – According to U. S. News and World Report’s rankings, three-fourths of the nation’s 188 doctoral degree granting teacher preparation institutions may soon be NCATE accredited. This development signals an increasingly high degree of correlation between the media’s rankings of graduate schools of education and the profession’s mark of distinction—NCATE accreditation. It is a significant step forward in public recognition of the importance of professional accreditation in teacher preparation.

U.S. News identifies which institutions are NCATE accredited in the new 2002 edition of its rankings of premier graduate education, entitled *Best Graduate Schools*. Currently, two-thirds of the teacher preparation institutions in this influential segment of higher education are professionally accredited through NCATE. Ten more institutions are currently applying for accreditation and are in the ‘candidacy’ stage. If they are successful, the field of teacher preparation will reach a major milestone in the area of quality assurance. NCATE institutions currently produce two-thirds of the nation’s new teacher graduates each year.

NCATE rolled out a performance-based accreditation system in 2001 that requires institutions to provide compelling evidence that their candidates know the subject matter they plan to teach and how to teach it effectively so that all students learn. NCATE accreditation has been embraced by the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future, the National Alliance of Business, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and other groups. NCATE’s 33 member national organizations represent the field of education at large and include the Council of Chief State School Officers and other policymaker groups, as well as organizations of teachers, teacher educators, and school specialists who represent millions of Americans committed to quality teaching and quality teacher preparation.

NCATE welcomes U. S. News’ incorporation of NCATE accreditation status in its list of graduate preparation programs. For more information, visit [www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/edu/eduindex.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/edu/eduindex.htm) (click on teacher preparation) or go to [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com) and click on Best Graduate School rankings; also visit NCATE’s website, <http://www.ncate.org>. The U. S. Department of Education recognizes NCATE as the professional accrediting body for teacher preparation.