

Touch the future through a career in teaching



SCHOOL TO CAREER

Choosing a career is a tough decision. There are so many important questions. What work will really make you happy? What fits your talents and interests? Can you afford the necessary schooling? Can you make a good salary?

Here's a suggestion: Be a teacher.

Teaching isn't for everybody. Few careers are as challenging and demanding as teaching — or as rewarding. Teaching is one of very few jobs that allows you to use your whole mind and your whole heart.

A Career for the Next Century

The field that the nation's business and political leaders have called "critical for the prosperity and long-term growth of the United States economy" isn't computers or telecommunications. It's education.

And that's not surprising. Success in tomorrow's world economy will go to nations with the most well-educated and creative workforces. This reality will make education more important than ever before — and will make teaching our nation's most significant profession.

Teachers today are changing their profession to meet the new challenges ahead. In schools across North Carolina and America, teachers are taking an increasingly active role in decision-making on everything from curriculum to textbooks.

Today, even the levels of education are changing. Schools don't just start with kindergarten and end with high school any more. Education is a field of expanding flexibility and variety, with new opportunities arising in areas as diverse as preschool and adult education.

Today's Teacher: A Professional

If you choose to become a teacher, you first need to complete a four-year college program. But most teachers don't stop with a bachelor's degree. More than half the nation's teachers now hold either a master's or a doctorate. Most teachers earn their advanced degrees after starting their teaching careers. And since 1987, teachers have been able to earn yet another distinguishing honor — National Board Certification. More than 16,000 teachers nationwide have earned this certification, with North Carolina leading the nation. There are 3,659 nationally board certified teachers in North Carolina.

Collegiate teacher-preparation programs are designed to help prospective teachers become an expert in the subject they plan to teach and an authority on working with young people. Professional preparation will also give prospective teachers the opportunity to work in schools as a student teacher, under the guidance of experienced teachers. These student-teaching experiences help determine if teaching is really for you.

Find Out More

Talk to your teachers, and seek out members of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). There are more than 70,000 NCAE members in the public schools of North Carolina, in education programs in state colleges and universities, and among the retired members of your communities. They will give you straight answers about the pros and cons of teaching as a career.

Talk to your school's guidance or career counselors.

Write to college admissions offices for information on education programs. School guidance counselors, school media centers, and local libraries will have computer-based reference material and reference books that include college addresses.

Call or write the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction or visit www.ncpublicschools.org, for information on requirements for entering the teaching profession.

Call the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) at 1-800-662-7924 or the National Education

Be a teacher

Association (NEA) at 202-822-7132 for assistance and guidance in pursuing a career in teaching.

Teacher Licensure in North Carolina

All professional employees of public schools must hold a license for the subject or grade level they teach, or for the professional assignment they hold.

Licenses are issued in administrative, supervisory, student service, and teaching areas. Teaching areas encompass:

- birth through kindergarten,
- elementary (K-6),
- middle grades (6-9),
- secondary grades (9-12),
- special subjects (K-12),
- exceptional children (K-12),
- and vocational education.

North Carolina recognizes four teacher education and reciprocal licensing approaches:

- completion of an education program accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE),
- completion of an education program that follows National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) standards,
- reciprocity based on interstate agreements,
- completion of a state-approved program not accredited by NCATE, approved through the interstate agreement, or based on NASDTEC guide lines.

The Praxis Series is the standard testing requirement for licensing in North Carolina. First-time applicants for a North Carolina license must meet the minimum scores in effect at the time they apply, and must take the Praxis II subject assessment. Individuals are required to take only one subject assessment for their first North Carolina license, even if they are eligible for more than one area of licensure.

Continuing North Carolina licenses are valid for five years. To maintain a current license, the holder must earn 10 semester hours or fifteen units of renewal credit during each five-year cycle, with all credit earned by the expiration date of the license.

NC Teacher Education Programs

NC A&T State University	Fayetteville State University	Pfeiffer University
Appalachian State University	Gardner-Webb University	Queens College
UNC-Asheville	Greensboro College	Salem College
Barton College	Guilford College	Shaw University
Barber-Scotia College	High Point University	St. Andrews College
Belmont Abbey College	Johnson C. Smith University	St. Augustine's College
Bennett College	Lees-McRae College	NC State University
Campbell University	Lenoir-Rhyne College	UNC-Chapel Hill
Catawba College	Livingston College	UNC-Charlotte
Chowan College	Mars Hill College	UNC-Greensboro
Davidson College	Meredith College	Wake Forest University
Duke University	Methodist College	Warren Wilson College
East Carolina University	Montreat College	Western Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University	NC Central University	UNC-Wilmington
Elon College	NC Wesleyan College	Wingate University
	UNC-Pembroke	Winston-Salem State University

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North Carolina Association of Educators

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NCAE President Carolyn O. McKinney

I'm proud to be a teacher. In fact, my entire professional career has been spent in education in North Carolina. I've been a teacher for 26 years and could not have chosen a more satisfying career. I

want to encourage young people all across North Carolina to seriously consider the best career in the world — teaching. Just think, the Governor of North Carolina, the Justices on the Supreme Court, the President of the United States — all had teachers. You could actually be the one who sets a child on a path to aspire to such heights. Yet, whether we teach the state and nation's future leaders, or the person who assists us when we need medical care, to purchase gas, groceries or clothing, or serve as our religious advisor, teachers have the greatest impact on the greatest number of people in all walks of life.

A special day is on the calendar next month — National Teacher Day is May 7. This special day for teachers is celebrated as a time to show appreciation for their dedication and commitment to educating all students. NCAE wants to add another component to this special celebration. We want National Teacher Day to serve as an opportunity to express concern about the nation's current teacher shortage and stress the need to make teaching a viable career option for the next generation. A sufficient quantity of talented teachers is the most basic ingredient for good schools. NCAE encourages young students to consider teaching as a profession.

The US Department of Education estimates that by 2008, schools will need to hire more than 2.2 million new teachers because of teacher attrition and increased student enrollment. It is vitally important that more bright young people enter and stay in the teaching profession.

There are everyday heroes in classrooms throughout North Carolina and the United States. We have to make sure that the teaching workforce remains talented, viable and strong. No other professionals touch so many lives in such a lasting way.

I invite you on National Teacher Day to thank your teachers for a job well done and to inquire about pursuing teaching as a career.

National Teacher Day is observed and celebrated each year by the National Education Association (NCAE's parent organization) and the National PTA. It is the signature event of Teacher Appreciation Week, designated as the first full week in May. This year, the North Carolina Association of Educators is focusing on teaching as a career for this special observance.

NCAE-NEA Resources

North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program

NCAE sponsors the North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program, which is an innovative, activity-based curriculum for high school seniors who are interested in teaching as a career. The course is designed to promote a better understanding of the teaching profession and create interest in students who are considering career options. The Teacher Cadet Program is an honors-type program that details many components of the education environment and involves students in content, application, observations and teaching. There are five units of study: The Learner, The School, The Teacher and Teaching, History and Government, Professional Growth, and Activities/Portfolios. There are requirements for Teacher Cadet teachers and Teacher Cadet students. For additional information contact Jane Hansel, NCAE staff, 640-E Washington St., Washington Arms Bldg, Eden, NC 27288; or call 800/824-8553.

NCAE Future Teachers of America Program

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) sponsors this program in schools statewide to nurture and sustain interest in teaching as a professional career among high school students. When the National Future Teachers of America program disbanded, NCAE stepped in to continue student enrichment activities in North Carolina through FTA. NCAE recognized that the health of the teaching profession is dependent on the interest of young people, and encourages them, through this program, to pursue teaching as a career. The NCAE contact for NCAE FTA is Jane Hansel, 640-E Washington St., Washington Arms Bldg, Eden, NC 27288; or call 800/824-8553.



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