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BECOMING A TEACHER IN ARKANSAS

EXPLORE PROGRAM, LICENSING AND JOB OUTLOOK DATA FOR 2016



BEST RANKING SCHOOLS



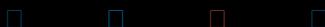
DATA AND RESEARCH



LICENSING

GUIDE TO BECOMING A TEACHER IN ARKANSAS

For aspiring Arkansas teachers,
ToBecomeATeacher.org has compiled all the





to complete the following critical steps:

1. Choosing a Program: First, you will need to find an education program that supports your budget and short- and long-term career goals.

- Finding an appropriate program that fits your needs is never easy. What matters to you as a student? Is cost a major concern? Are you concerned about the program's graduation rate or job placement rate? Asking the right questions upfront will ensure you end up in the program that is best suited to your needs and budget.

2. Planning for Licensure in Arkansas: To become a teacher in Arkansas, you'll need to complete at least a bachelor's degree and a teacher preparation program and to write and pass the appropriate Praxis exams.

3. Entering the Workforce: Once you've completed an education program and passed the applicable exams, you will be ready to launch your job search and find a teaching job that is right for you.

- It is always best to start by asking the right questions. Are you interested in working in a rural or urban school? Where do you think you would be most comfortable working and living? What are your lifestyle priorities and which region of the state can best meet these priorities? What are your salary expectations? Throughout this process, keep developing your resume, expanding your education by completing professional development courses for teachers, and gaining additional teaching experience. By remaining current, you will ensure you have the best possible chance of gaining a full-time teaching position shortly after graduation.

CHOOSING AN EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ARKANSAS

ToBecomeATeacher.org understands that choosing the right program is never easy. For this reason, we have streamlined the process. With the aid of a complex algorithmic tool, we have reviewed, tested and documented the top education programs in the State of Arkansas for 2015. Notably, our criteria reflects

prospective teachers' top priorities. For this reason, our rankings focus on total expense, student-to- faculty ratios, graduation rates, potential earnings, and over all return on investment.

All the schools on ToBecomeATeacher.org's list below are committed to excellence and have proven themselves to be among the very best places to pursue an education degree in Arkansas. Find out which schools rank best at the bachelor's and master's levels in education.

Bachelors Programs

Masters Programs

#	Name	Expense Score <input type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance Rate Score <input type="checkbox"/>	Graduation Rate Score <input type="checkbox"/>	ROI/Value Score <input type="checkbox"/>	Student to Faculty Score <input type="checkbox"/>	
1	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	8.9	10	4.01	8.9	5.3	⊕
2	University of Arkansas-Fort Smith	10	7	3.42	10	1.8	⊕
3	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	7.4	7.5	3.4	7.4	7.1	⊕
4	Arkansas Tech University	9.5	4.3	6.09	9.5	0.59	⊕
5	Henderson State University	7.9	6.5	4.74	7.9	5.3	⊕
6	Southern Arkansas University Main Campus	6.8	6.7	4.73	6.8	4.7	⊕
7	University of Arkansas	5.3	6.9	9.03	5.3	1.2	⊕
8	Arkansas State University-Main Campus	6.3	5.2	5.74	6.3	1.8	⊕

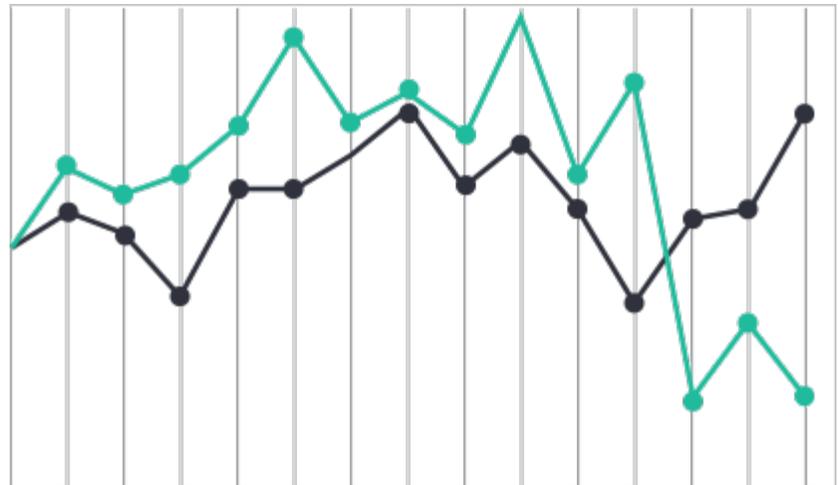
9	University of Central Arkansas	5.8	3.8	6.2	5.8	2.9	+
10	Williams Baptist College	3.2	6	6.21	3.2	7.6	+

Load More

RANKING FACTORS EXPLAINED

ToBecomeATeacher.org's ranking data is based upon Collegescorecard.gov, IPEDS, and the Carnegie Foundation data sets.

- Expense Score
- Selectivity Score
- Student Faculty Score
- Graduation rate Score
- Counseling Score
- Earnings Score
- Value/Roi Score
- Final Score



Our Ranking Methodology

HOW TO BECOME A TEACHER IN ARKANSAS

There are several pathways one can take to become a teacher in Arkansas.

- **Pathway 1:** First, you can opt to complete a traditional education preparation program at one of

Arkansas's 20 colleges that have been authorized to offer such programs. These are programs that lead to teacher licensure in the state.

- **Pathway 2:** Another popular option is the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL). This is a two-year program designed for candidates who already hold a bachelor's degree or higher. It enables aspiring teachers to work as classroom teachers while completing the additional training and education needed to become fully licensed to teach in Arkansas.
- **Pathway 3:** For candidates who already hold a bachelor's degree, another option is to complete a master's degree (e.g., an MAT, MED or MTLL) through a participating college or university in Arkansas. In some cases, candidates may be able to work as a classroom teacher while pursuing this option.

Whatever the pathway, Arkansas educators must also complete the required exams; these include the Praxis Core exam and one or more Praxis II subject exams. Teachers who hold a valid license to teach in another U.S. state may also be able to teach in Arkansas through the state's reciprocal agreement program but some conditions apply.

WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK FOR TEACHING CAREERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS?

Arkansas is among America's least populous states, reporting a statewide population just under [3 million residents](#). Nevertheless, in 2015, Arkansas had [1,082 public schools](#) and employed an estimated [33,000 teachers](#). It is also one of the few U.S. states with a [mandatory full-day kindergarten](#) program. In 2015, there were 1,960 kindergarten teachers in the state. Elementary teachers accounted for 11,690 teachers and middle and high school teachers accounted for 16,200 teachers. Arkansas is also home to several thousands postsecondary level educators. Job prospects for teachers in Arkansas are expected to hold steady in the coming years. Shortage areas include bilingual educators, foreign language educators, reading specialists, and science and math educators.

WHAT RESOURCES DO TEACHERS HAVE TO HELP THEM DURING THEIR CAREERS IN ARKANSAS?

- The **Arkansas Department of Education** is the main governing body for teachers in the State of Arkansas. Their website contains important links to information on teacher licensure, statewide educational policies, and [curricular resources](#).
- Arkansas teachers are represented by the **Arkansas State Teacher's Association (ASTA)** —a non-unionized teacher's association representing the needs of teachers statewide. [ASTA's](#) website provides information for teachers and aspiring teachers on professional development opportunities, policies and grants.
- **Subject-based teacher organizations** in Arkansas include the [Arkansas Science Teachers Association](#) ,

[Arkansas Council of Teachers of Math](#) , and [Arkansas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts](#) .

- Finally, the **Arkansas Association for Educational Administrators** hosts a [job board](#) , featuring current openings for both teachers and administrators across the state.

WHAT ONLINE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE TO POTENTIAL TEACHERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS?

There are several online education programs in Arkansas. At [Southern Arkansas University](#) , aspiring teachers who have already completed a bachelor's degree can pursue an online Master of Arts in teaching, leading to licensure. At the [University of Arkansas](#) , aspiring high school math teachers can pursue an online master of arts of secondary mathematics. The [University of Arkansas at Little Rock](#) offers online master's degrees in both learning systems technology and reading. Aspiring principals can pursue a master's degree in School Leadership, Management, and Administration through the [University of Central Arkansas](#) online program.

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RESOURCES

IES INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

The IES Institute is an exceptional source of education research, evaluation, assessment, development and statistics for future and existing teachers.

UNITES STATES CENSUS

The US Census can provide teachers with demographic data for research projects, career advancement projects, education courses and job placement.

COLLEGE NAVIGATOR

Looking for the perfect college or university to power your teaching career? The College Navigator is a great resource to utilize.

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