Do you want to teach after graduation but aren’t in a teacher prep program?

Though you have probably heard of Teach for America, you may not realize the great wealth of opportunities available to students who are graduating without teacher certification. Opportunities await you in:

1. Independent (private) schools
2. Catholic schools
3. Public schools
4. Teaching abroad

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**Need assistance?** Call the Career Center to arrange an appointment with a career advisor, 617-552-3430.

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1) Teaching in Independent (Private) Schools

Teaching in an independent school offers several advantages - you have a great deal of autonomy in designing and teaching curriculum; you are part of a community that values subject expertise, teaching, and learning; classes are small; and the students you teach are committed to learning and are generally quite able academically.

**A few key issues:**

1. **No certification required at the secondary level** - you can teach in most independent schools without state certification or enrollment in a teacher training program. **NOTE** that most independent elementary schools do require coursework in teaching methods, and some require state certification.
2. **The hiring calendar** - starts much earlier in independent schools than in public schools - most of the hiring activity occurs from January through April.
3. **Teaching fellowships** - some independent schools offer fellowships or co-teaching programs for new teachers, where you are matched with a mentor teacher and perhaps have a reduced course load initially.
4. **Teacher placement agencies** - much of the hiring in independent schools occurs through teacher placement agencies like Carney, Sandoe (in Cambridge). You register with one or more agencies, to which you submit your application materials, which are then forwarded to schools with appropriate openings.
5. **Sports and extra-curriculars** - teachers at most independent schools contribute to students’ growth outside the classroom. The ability to coach one or more sports or to advise a major extra-curricular activity such as theater or a student publication is highly valued in applicants.

**For more information, visit:** Teaching in Independent Schools
http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/edprivate.html
2) TEACHING IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Not everyone who teaches in a Catholic school considers themselves a Catholic or even a practicing Christian. However, it is important that you be living a faith-based life. In addition, the Catholic schools offer a more challenging academic experience to students than do some of the public schools, and consequently, you should be well-prepared to teach your particular academic discipline.

Some Catholic schools prefer their teachers to have state teacher certification or to be working toward that certification.

What are the benefits of working in a Catholic School?

1. You have the opportunity to teach and to model a religious- and values-centered approach to life. More simply put, you have the opportunity to talk to your students about God.
2. Classes are frequently smaller than in the public schools, and there are fewer discipline problems.
3. Parental cooperation and involvement is high.

For more information, visit: Teaching in Catholic Schools
http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/edcatholic.html

3) TEACHING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHOUT CERTIFICATION

For students who are not in the Lynch School, there are several paths to teaching in the public schools:

1. Secondary Education Minor - Open only to select A & S majors, the minor enables students to combine a liberal arts education and scholarship in a major discipline with professional study and practice. The minor leads to state certification and usually begins in the sophomore year.
   http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/academics/minors/lsoeminors.html
2. City- and state-based certification programs - Some states and major cities have created programs to attract liberal arts majors to teach in underserved urban and rural school districts. These include New York City Teaching Fellows, DC Teaching Fellows, teachNOLA (New Orleans), and the Mississippi Teacher Corps.
3. Alternative certification paths - many states allow you to teach while you take courses to become certified. These are almost always restricted to areas of teacher shortage, such as math, science and foreign language, and may be limited to underserved urban and rural districts, as well.
4. Get a Masters degree that includes practice teaching experience and state certification.

For more information, visit: Teaching in Public Schools Without Certification
http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/ednotcertified.html
4) TEACHING ABROAD

Opportunities exist around the globe for Americans who want to teach abroad, whether you want to teach English to adults or you want to teach children. Certification to teach in the public schools here broadens your opportunities overseas, particularly in the K-12 realm, as does actual teaching experience. But if you know where to look, there are plenty of opportunities at every level.

Teaching English Abroad - key points

1. The most abundant opportunities are in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. But don't expect to save money while you work, unless you are employed in Taiwan, Japan or Korea. Most of the opportunities in Latin America are volunteer, though you may receive room, board and a small stipend.
2. It is possible to find work in some Western European countries, but it is not easy. Completing a certification program will put you in contention for some jobs, but it is still not a guarantee of employment. Some Americans find tutoring work "under the table" in large European cities.
3. There are three common paths to teaching English abroad - going through a U.S.-based exchange or placement organization; interviewing with language schools in-country (you are responsible for the work permit); or teaching in a developing country by hooking up with a volunteer organization.

For more information, visit:
- A great overview - http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/work/options/teach-no-main.html
- Dave's ESL Cafe - http://eslcafe.com/ - the Job Boards and teacher Forums
- Transitions Abroad Magazine - http://transitionsabroad.com/
- Volunteering in developing countries - http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/jobs/volunteer/volunteerabroad.html

Teaching "K-12" Abroad - key points

1. For those with state teacher certification in the U.S., the most common options are Department of Defense schools and American international schools, most of which are associated with the State Department.
2. For those without certification, there are many smaller programs that may allow you to teach abroad, mostly in developing countries. These include the Peace Corps; the Fulbright U.S. Student Program - English Teaching Assistantship; Spain's Grants for North American Language and Cultural Assistants program; Teach for India; and numerous volunteer organizations operating in developing countries.

For more information, visit: Teaching K-12 Abroad http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/intlk12.html