



## Red Flags to Watch for When Choosing a School of Education

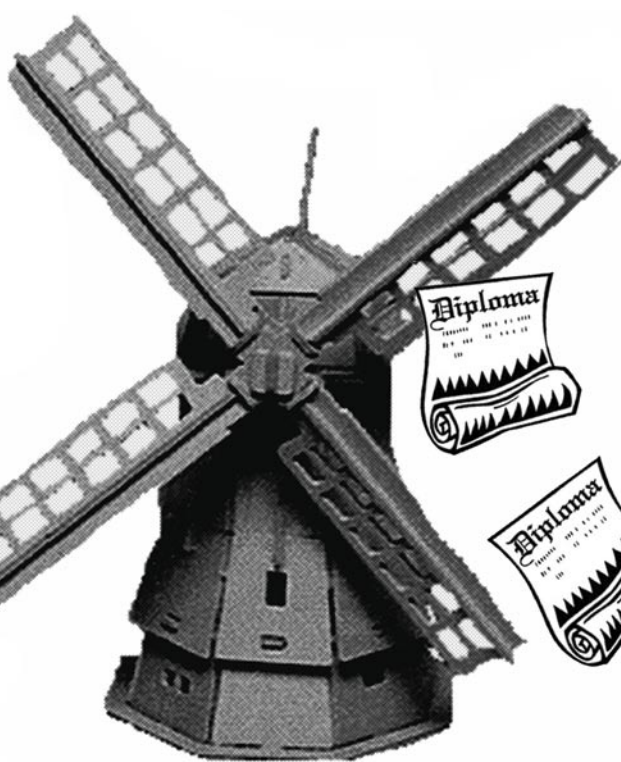


### Look for these signs that a college or university is too good to be true:

- Degrees can be earned in less time than at a traditional college.
- A list of accrediting agencies that sounds a little too impressive. Some schools list accreditation by organizations that are not recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or imply official approval by mentioning state “registration” or licensing. When in doubt, check with the **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education** at [www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org) or the **Council on Higher Education Accreditation** at [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org).
- Offers that place heavy emphasis on college credits for lifetime or real-world experience.
- Tuition paid on a per-degree basis, or discounts for enrolling in multiple degree programs. Traditional colleges charge by credit hours, course or semester.
- Little or no interaction with professors.
- Names that are similar to well-known, reputable universities.
- Addresses that are box numbers or suites.



Source: *The Better Business Bureau*



### Diploma Mills Go Digital

Digital diploma mills can appear remarkably similar to legitimate distance learning institutions. “They take advantage of loopholes in state laws to operate legally,” said Michael Lambert, executive director of the Distance Education and Training Council. “Most of them advertise as ‘universities’ or use words like ‘academe.’”

Full Article:

[www.wes.org/ewenr/00july/feature.htm](http://www.wes.org/ewenr/00july/feature.htm)

**🚨** Experts estimate that there are more than 300 unaccredited universities operating in the states and about 200 fake accrediting agencies.