What you planned after graduation might not happen. Something great still can. CART can take you there.

**Q&A**

**QUESTION:** I have thought about teaching but I haven’t taken any education courses. How will you prepare me before I get into the classroom?

**ANSWER:** After reviewing your application and interviewing you, we’ll know where you stand. We will screen for candidates we think will be successful in a rural setting and we will shoot straight with you. If you are chosen, you will undergo six weeks of intensive training at LSU as soon as you graduate in May. After being assigned to a school in one of nine parishes in central Louisiana, you will co-teach the coming school year four days a week with a mentor teacher. You will work with LSU and LSU-Alexandria professors on your Masters of Natural Sciences and Louisiana Teaching Certification one day a week.

**QUESTION:** This is described as a residency program. What does that mean?

**ANSWER:** You will be assigned to one of 15 high schools in 9 parishes in Central Louisiana – Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn. The high schools will provide you an opportunity to observe different teaching styles, co-teach with a mentor teacher, and be coached by knowledgeable experts in classroom management skills, assessment, 21st Century skills, etc. It also means that during your residency, we will assist you in finding housing if necessary.

**QUESTION:** How do I know where I will get assigned? Do I get to choose the school and the parish?

**ANSWER:** A major key to your success will be matching you with the right mentor teacher. During your training, we will be assessing you to determine which veteran mentor teacher will be the right fit for you. That won’t be known until a few weeks before the school year starts. Whenever possible, we will make every effort for you to stay at the same school during your graduate student year and three years as a teacher with full salary and benefits.

**QUESTION:** What if I get my Masters and then decide not to fulfill my teaching commitment?

**ANSWER:** You will sign a contract stating that if you receive a Masters of Natural Sciences (MNS) degree and do not fulfill your teaching, you will repay all tuition, fees, and stipends received.

**QUESTION:** Why should I choose this program over other alternative certification programs?

**ANSWER:** You should choose this program if you want to stay in Louisiana; teach in a rural area, obtain teacher certification and a Masters of Natural Sciences degree at no cost. Other programs might send you to teach out-of-state for a couple of years, but since the expectation is you will pursue graduate school or a different career, there is not an emphasis on obtaining teacher certification status or a professional, teacher-oriented masters degree.

**QUESTION:** I want to be a part of something special. What’s special about CART?

**ANSWER:** The goal of this program is to improve overall performance of schools in the Alexandria area by bringing in 60 content-rich, quality math and science teacher into schools over the next four years. You’ll be instrumental in helping keep CART alive and passing program benefits on to others. You might have a mentor teacher helping you along in year one, but in year two or three it’s likely you’ll be a mentor to someone participating in CART.

**QUESTION:** Will you help me with the teacher certification process?

**ANSWER:** From preparing for PRAXIS I and II to helping you take care of your certification paperwork, we have a vested interest in your success and that includes certification.

**QUESTION:** Does the MNS degree prepare me to go on to a PhD.?

**ANSWER:** No, it gives you a foundation to be the best math or science teacher you can be.

**QUESTION:** What about benefits and health insurance?

**ANSWER:** While you are a graduate student you can purchase health insurance from LSU for around $1,000 per year. For further information, see http://www.shc.lsu.edu/files/2009-10/LSU/Brochure.pdf

Once you earn a full-time teaching position you will receive full salary and healthcare benefits.

**QUESTION:** What happens if it turns out that my mentor teacher and I have irreconcilable differences?

**ANSWER:** We will do our very best to make sure that this does not happen. If it does, we will work with you to find a solution.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**
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**CART**
CENTRAL LOUISIANA
ACADEMIC RESIDENCY
FOR TEACHERS

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