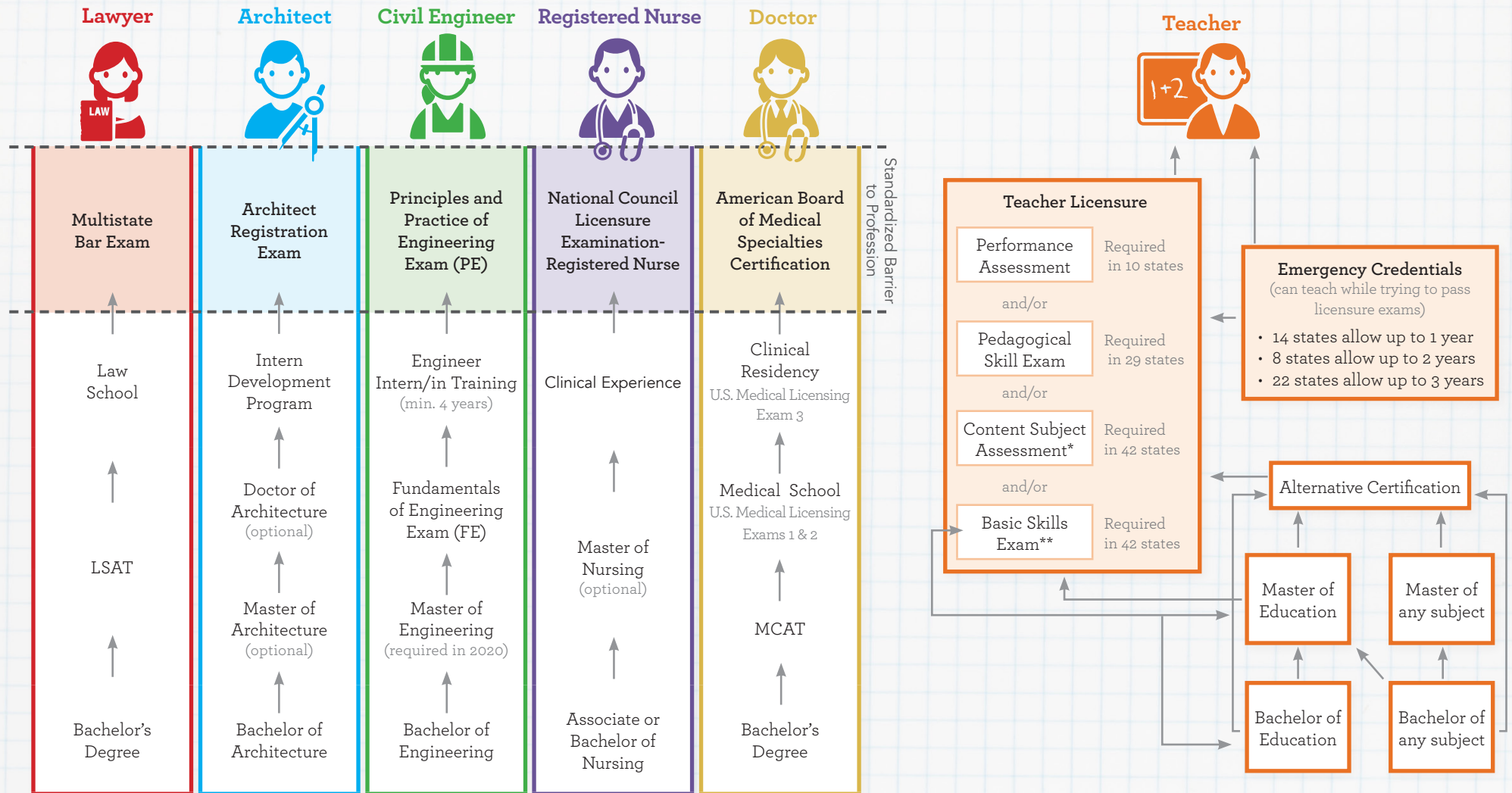


One of These Things is Not Like the Others...

Most professions follow a standard path to licensure, where aspiring entrants throughout the country must pass the same rigorous final exam to begin their careers. Why isn't this the case for K-12 teachers? In order to professionalize teaching, we should require a linear path into the profession that enforces a high bar for entry and ensures that those who teach future generations are prepared on day one.



* 42 states and DC require secondary content assessments in each subject, and 47 states and DC require elementary content assessments.

** 26 states use basic skills tests for admissions to teacher prep programs. 14 states use these tests, which typically test middle school level skills, at the completion of teacher preparation to confer teaching licenses. Another 8 states do not require basic skills testing at all. (NCTQ State Policy Yearbook 2013).

For more, read the Third Way memo "Teaching: The Next Generation," available at: <http://www.thirdway.org/publications/811>.

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