

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

The State of Texas (by House Bill 1508 in 2017), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) require that an educator preparation program inform all certification program applicants and candidates about the State's rules on criminal background checks from the Texas Occupations Code Chapter 53, the Texas Education Code Chapter 22.0831 and the Texas Administrative Code, Part VII, Chapter 227, Subchapter B.

Annually the UHCL Registrar sends out an email to all UHCL students enrolled in a certificate/license program at UHCL informing them of the state's rules and requirements.

In addition, the College of Education (CoE) requires all students entering a UHCL educator certificate program to confirm in writing that the candidate read and was informed by CoE of the following:

1. An individual who has been **convicted of an offense or received deferred adjudication** may be ***ineligible*** for the issuance of an educator certificate upon completion of an educational program.
2. TEA will conduct a **national criminal history check** on the candidate when the candidate applies for an educator certificate and throughout the candidate's educator career.
3. The candidate has read TEA's National Criminal History Checks-FAQs at:
http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/National_Criminal_History_Checks-FAQs/
4. The candidate understands that the candidate may request a **Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation** from TEA if the candidate has any reason to believe that the candidate may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense, per Texas Occupation Code Section 53.102, (<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/OC/htm/OC.53.htm>). The candidate has read TEA's Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation-FAQs at:
http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/
5. The candidate has read the current guidelines issued by SBEC on the following:
 - a. Disciplinary Policy Guidelines
http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Disciplinary_Policy_and_Mission_Statement_-_State_Board_for_Educator_Certification/
 - b. Educator Discipline – FAQs
http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Educator_Discipline_-_FAQs/