

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

College of Nursing

Criminal Background Check Notice for Nursing Students

All students accepted to the College of Nursing will be required to undergo a Criminal Background Check. An admissions offer can be rescinded based on the results of the criminal background check and/or unprofessional behavior. The faculty reserve the right to make the final determination. Please see the following information which addresses initial licensure, and the requirements for admission.

Admission to the College of Nursing

Students accepted into the College of Nursing (CON) will be required to undergo a criminal background check.

- An offer of admission **may be rescinded** based on the results of the criminal background check and/or evidence of unprofessional behavior.
- **Faculty reserve the right to make the final determination** regarding a student's admission status based on background check findings.
- A student may be admitted to the University depending on background check results; however, this does not guarantee entry into or continuation in clinical coursework. Admission remains **subject to review by the CON and by clinical partner agencies**.
- **Clinical partners and the CON reserve the right to deny clinical placement** based on background check results, independent of the student's University or CON admission status.
- If a clinical partner denies placement the student due to background check findings, the student will not be able to meet the clinical requirements of the program and therefore cannot successfully complete the nursing program at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Tennessee Licensure Requirements

Effective June 1, 2006, applicants for **initial** licensure in Tennessee (this does not apply to renewal or reinstatement) must obtain a criminal background check. Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-7-115 gives the Tennessee Board of Nursing the authority to deny a license based on criminal convictions.

Board Rule 1000-1-.13(2) lists specific convictions that may result in denial of licensure and states that individuals are not eligible for licensure until five years post-conviction. **However, denial of licensure is not limited to the convictions listed in this rule.** The Board has broader discretion to deny licensure based on an applicant's criminal history.

Students should not contact the Tennessee Board of Nursing regarding their eligibility for licensure prior to enrolling in the program. The Board does not make eligibility determinations prior to a formal application for licensure and cannot provide students with that information in advance.

Students with questions about how a prior criminal history may affect their ability to obtain Tennessee licensure are strongly encouraged to consult an attorney or seek guidance directly from the Tennessee Board of Nursing only after admission and prior to program completion, rather than relying on informal assurances.