

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CLEARANCES AND THE LAW

PURPOSE: The Teacher Education program at Pont Park University prepares teachers for P-12 classrooms of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by providing programs of preparation that include, among other activities, observations, field experiences, and student teaching experiences in P-12 classrooms in partnership with local public and approved private school programs. These programs lead to teacher certification in Pennsylvania.

Teacher education candidates are required by law to acquire and present to prospective schools or school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania certain background documentation including:

1. A criminal history record information report from the Pennsylvania State Police that is no more than one year old (Reference: 24 P.S. §1.111 (b)),
2. A federal criminal history record information report that is no more than one year old (Reference: 24 P.S. § 1-111(c,1)), and
3. A Child Abuse Clearance Statement obtained from the Department of Public Welfare within the immediately preceding year (Reference: 23 Pa. C.S.A. §6355 (a)).

Teacher education candidates are also expected to maintain up-to-date background data throughout their preparation until such time Point Park University recommends them to PDE for teaching certification.

No person shall be employed in a public or private school, intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school where the report of criminal history record information indicates the applicant has been convicted, within five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the report, of any of the following offenses: (Reference: 24 P.S. §1-111(e))

1. An offense under one or more of the following provision of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidates Statutes:
 - Chapter 25 (relating to criminal homicide)
 - Section 2702 (relating to aggravated assault)
 - Former section 2709 (b) (relating to stalking)
 - Section 2709.1 (relating to stalking)
 - Section 2901 (related to kidnapping)
 - Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint)
 - Section 3121 (relating to rape)
 - Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault)
 - Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse)
 - Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault)
 - Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault)
 - Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault)
 - Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure)
 - Section 4302 (relating to incest)
 - Section 4303 (relating to concealing death of a child)
 - Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of children)
 - Section 4305 (relating to dealing in infant children)
 - A felony offense under section 5902 (b) (relating to prostitution and related offenses)
 - Section 5903 (c) or (d) (relating to obscene and other sexual materials and performances)
 - Section 6301 (relating to the corruption of minors)
 - Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children)
2. An offense designated as a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, (35 P.S. §780-113)
3. An out-of-State or Federal offense similar in nature to those crimes listed in sections 1 and 2, above.

Student teacher candidates, defined as individuals participating in a classroom teaching, observations, internship, clinical or field experience who, as part of a program for the initial or advanced preparation of professional educators, perform classroom teaching or assist in the education program in a public or private school, intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school under the supervision of education preparation program faculty, may not participate in any

classroom teaching, observations, internship, clinical, or field experience if, under 24 P.S. §1-111 (e), they would be prohibited from being employed by the school entity . [Reference, 24 P.S. §1-111 (a.1) (3) and 24 P.S. §1-111 (a.1) (5)]

Teacher education candidates shall provide their state and federal criminal history record information reports to the Education Department of Point Park University, who will notify teacher education candidates each semester who are not in compliance with the regulations set forth above.

The Education Department has the legal and ethical responsibilities to (a) maintain the safety, well-being, and intellectual and emotional development of P-12 students, as well as fellow students of Point Park University, and (b) to protect the partnership it established with P-12 schools in order to prepare teachers for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Education Department intends to carry out its responsibility as described in the event that teacher education candidates have histories of criminal convictions by adhering to the following policies.

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY STUDENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

1. As required by law, the Education Department will,
 - 1.1 require teacher education candidates to secure criminal background clearances and child abuse clearances
 - 1.2 collect, examine, and maintain copies of these criminal background clearances and child abuse clearances
2. The Education Department will prohibit teacher education candidates from participating in observations, field experiences and student teaching experiences, as is required by the statute, if they have been convicted of crimes outlined in 24 P.S. 1 – 111 (e).
3. The Education Department will not prohibit otherwise qualified teacher education candidates from participating in observations, field experiences or student teaching experiences if they have been convicted of crimes other than those outlined in 24 P.S. 1– 111, since there is no statutory basis for doing so. However, the following provisions pertain to these cases:
 - 3.1. Copies of the criminal history reports of a teacher education candidate will be made available to school district personnel at the time the requests for placements (observations, field experiences, or student teaching) on behalf of that individual.
 - 3.2. A signed Statement of Understanding stating that the teacher education candidate with a conviction history may be viewed as less desirable by potential employer School Districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, despite the fact that they may be legally eligible for such a position under the law.
 - 3.3. A signed Statement of Understanding stating that the teacher candidate is accepted into the Education Degree Program and as such, will continue to work towards a degree from Point Park University. Although the degree program can lead to Pennsylvania teaching certification, the final decision rests with the Pennsylvania Department of Education as to whether or not, a teaching certification is issued.
 - 3.4. It is the immediate obligation of the student to inform the Education Department of any change in status of his/her clearances. Failure to do so could result in the inability of the Education Department to process paperwork for Pennsylvania teaching certificate.

I have read, and acknowledge the responsibilities as set forth in this document. It is my responsibility to inform the Education Department of any changes in the required clearance forms.

_____	_____
Student's Name	Date
_____	_____
Clear of Criminal Conviction	Date
_____	_____
Criminal Convictions on Clearances	Date of Conviction
_____	_____
Chair, Education Department	Date

Copies: Student AND Student Folder / Education Department