National Criminal History Review Requirements for Certification and Employment

Regardless of the path chosen for certification, candidates should be advised that Texas law requires that all candidates in field experiences (including student teaching, the internship associated with post-bac teaching certification, and the practicum associated with principal or superintendent certification) must pass a national criminal history review. Any candidate who cannot be cleared because of a criminal record will not be approved for a field experience and cannot obtain certification or be employed as an educator in the state of Texas.

Candidates who are unsure about their ability to clear a national criminal history review are urged to clarify their ability to certify before considering the Educator Preparation Program. A [Preliminary Criminal](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/preliminary-criminal-history-evaluation-faqs) [History Evaluation](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/preliminary-criminal-history-evaluation-faqs) process is available through the Texas Education Agency for those who want to verify their status in this regard. For information about the process and the state parameters, see the following link: [https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/national-](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/national-criminal-history-checks-faqs) [criminal-history-checks-faqs](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/national-criminal-history-checks-faqs)

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. Craig Hammonds, Dean of the College of Education, at [rhammonds@umhb.edu](mailto:rhammonds@umhb.edu)

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