



CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

Important Advisory for All Potential Applicants to Degree or Certificate Programs
in Criminal Justice: Background Checks – Drug Screens - Fitness for Duty
Examinations

While not a prerequisite for admission to Criminal Justice programs of study, criminal justice and related agencies maintain certain standards of "fitness" for prospective employees at the application stage. Job applications routinely ask applicants if they have ever been arrested/convicted of any offense, either misdemeanor or felony. An affirmative response or finding during a background investigation may be grounds to deny employment. Individuals who have previously entered guilty, nolo contendere, no contest pleas or otherwise been convicted of any felony charge will generally not be able to obtain employment in the criminal justice field. Employers in the criminal justice field may also require applicants to take psychological tests, polygraph examination, drug screening and/or medical tests to determine if applicants are suited for a particular position. Current or previous illegal usage of heroin, LSD, PCP, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, or other controlled substances may be grounds to reject applicants for employment. In addition, individuals released or discharged other than Honorably from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States may be grounds to deny employment in the field of criminal justice. Finally, prospective students might be required to undergo a criminal background check or drug screening before being permitted to participate in a site visit, clinical, or internship experience that constitutes a required portion of the educational program. Students who cannot satisfactorily pass a criminal background check may be prohibited by outside agencies from participating at their site, thus preventing a student from completing the course of study.

With respect to the above, the Criminal Justice Department and Volunteer State Community College (VSCC) advises applicants to the Criminal Justice program to consider carefully whether any of the foregoing considerations apply to them and therefore result in the likelihood that completion of the program and/or subsequent employment in related fields may prove problematic or impossible. Completion and a related credential from any criminal justice course of study do not guarantee that a student is employable.

I _____, have read the advisory and understand its contents.
(PRINT NAME)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please provide the following contact information:

VSCC Student ID#: _____

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