



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND NOTICE

Important Notice on Educator Certification Eligibility

The College of Education at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) is committed to transparency and ensuring that all applicants to our Educator Preparation Program (EPP) are fully informed about the certification requirements set by the State of Texas.

Certification Eligibility and Criminal History Review

Per [19 TAC §227.1(d)(1)], all applicants and admitted candidates—regardless of whether they have been convicted of an offense—should review the following important information:

1. **Potential Ineligibility:** Individuals with a criminal conviction may be ineligible for educator certification upon completion of the EPP.
2. **State Certification Rules:** The **State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)** outlines how an applicant's criminal history may impact certification eligibility under **§249.16**, in accordance with the **Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53**, and the **Texas Education Code, Chapter 21**.
3. **Criminal History Evaluation Letter:** Applicants have the right to request a **Criminal History Evaluation Letter** from the **Texas Education Agency (TEA)** before enrolling in the EPP to assess potential eligibility for certification.

Background Check Requirements

In addition to certification eligibility considerations, candidates must complete mandatory background checks at two key stages:

- **Before Employment as an Educator:** Texas law (**TEC §22.083**) requires all candidates to undergo a **criminal history background check** prior to employment.
- **Before Clinical Teaching:** Candidates must also complete a **background check** as required under **TEC §22.0835** before beginning their clinical teaching placement.

Next Steps

We strongly encourage all prospective applicants to review this information carefully. If you have concerns about your eligibility, we recommend requesting a **Criminal History Evaluation** from the **Texas Education Agency (TEA)** as soon as possible. For more details, please visit the [TEA website](#). If you have any questions or need further guidance, our team is here to support you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.