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**EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM**

***A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection, and Faith***

**TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

# **though**

**ALL STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ENROLLED IN A FIELD OR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE MUST SUBMIT TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING PRIOR TO BEING PLACED IN THE FIELD OR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE.**

**IF YOU ARE A GRADUATE STUDENT AND CURRENTLY TEACHING ON A TRANSITIONAL OR PRACTITIONER LICENSE, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE “VERIFICATION OF TEACHING CONTENT AREA, PROGRAM ENROLLMENT, AND INTENT TO HIRE” FORM WITH THE INTENT TO HIRE SECTION COMPLETED BY YOUR HIRING SCHOOL SYSTEM OR PRINCIPAL.**

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES VERY CAREFULLY.

**THANK YOU FOR NOT PUTTING THIS OFF!**

**Union University**

**Procedures for Background Checks and Fingerprinting**

Updated Fall 2019

All students desiring to enter Union University’s Educator Preparation Program, pursuant to the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-5632, must complete the following:

1. Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, including a Federal Bureau of Investigation search.
2. Submit the signed Parental Consent to Fingerprinting, Background Check, and Release of Information form (if the student is under 18) or the Consent to Fingerprinting, Background Check, and Release of Information form (if 18 or older) to the Office of Teacher Education (attached).; and
3. Sign an authorization and release form provided by the state Department of Education or the state Board of Education authorizing a qualified Tennessee licensed private investigator to complete a criminal history records check. To register for background check and complete fingerprinting, go to [www.identogo.com/](http://www.identogo.com/):
* Select “Get Fingerprinted” (located at the top of the screen to the far right)
* Select the state of Tennessee.
* Scroll down the page and select “Digital Fingerprinting.”
* Select “Schedule a New Appointment.”
* Under the service code box, select “Don’t know your service code.”
* Agency name: Select “Non-DCS Child Care/Adoption Providers.”
* Applicant Type: Select “Child-Related Worker (Private).”
* Enter Union’s ORI **TNCC57018.**
* Confirm that you are being fingerprinted for Union University Teacher Education Program.
* Enter your zip code (Jackson 38305). You can also choose a region for the available fingerprint locations;
* Select an appointment location and time.
* Finish the registration process.
* You may choose phone-in registration Monday-Friday (8:00 AM-4:30 PM CST). Call (855) 226-2937 and give Union’s ORI **TNCC57018.**
* ***Please be sure to take a debit or credit card, your driver’s license, and your registration confirmation to your appointment. Payment will be expected at that time.***

Your TBI online results will be available to Union’s EPP office in 1-2 days unless your record has charges. The results must be on file before you can receive the field experience placement. **If you have a criminal record, it is in your best interest to try to get that record cleared before submitting to the background check.**

Offenses that most likely will prevent your being placed in a field or clinical experience may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Conviction of any felony, including a conviction of a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere or order granting pre-trial diversion;
2. Criminal sexual conduct or child abuse or an attempt to commit that crime;
3. A misdemeanor involving cruelty, torture, or indecent exposure involving children;
4. A misdemeanor involving distribution of marijuana or any other drug on school property;
5. A misdemeanor involving assault and battery or domestic violence;
6. More than one driving under the influence or misdemeanor of any kind; or
7. Any other offense that involves harm to another person, especially children.

If your report includes any type of offense, you will be notified by the Asst. Dean for Teacher Education and given the opportunity to submit an appeal to the Background Checks Appeal Committee. This appeal allows you to know that a charge is on your record and to explain what happened. The committee will determine if you can proceed toward EPP admission. Approval of the appeal is required for you to receive your field experience placement. Successful completion of the field experience is required to pass the class.

**Submit the signed Consent form (attached) to Patti Todd immediately.**

**PARENTAL CONSENT TO FINGERPRINTING, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND**

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE**

As a parent or guardian of a student desiring to enter Union University’s Educator Preparation Program, pursuant to the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-5632 and the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et. al., I hereby agree and consent to the following:

1. To allow my student to supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation;
2. The release of all investigative records received as a result of the records check to the Program Director and the Dean of Students; and
3. To allow my student to sign an authorization and release form provided by the state Department of Education or the state Board of Education authorizing a qualified Tennessee licensed private investigator to complete a criminal history records check.

I understand that Union University reserves the right to not admit any student into the Educator Preparation Program, or any other university program, and to take all further action it deems appropriate if a student’s investigative records and criminal background and history check reveal information that puts the student in violation of Union’s student code of conduct, or any other applicable university policy or procedure, or would disqualify the student from the university and/or the Educator Preparation Program under any applicable state or federal law.

I understand that I will be responsible for the payment of all fees associated with the above-referenced fingerprinting and criminal history records check. I further understand that, upon my written request, I will be provided a copy of my student’s investigative records and criminal history background check records obtained by Union University pursuant to this release form, but I may not give the report to a third party.

I further acknowledge that I have been provided a copy of Union University’s procedures for completing the fingerprinting and criminal background check, a copy of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, a copy of the Agency Privacy Act, and a copy of the Noncriminal Justice Applicant’s Privacy Rights.

I am to report any arrests or criminal citation committed by this student to Union’s Assistant Dean for Teacher Education within 24 hours of the incident. Failure to do so may result in my dismissal from the program.

Parent/Legal Guardian’s Signature:

Printed name of Parent/Legal Guardian:

Parent of (please print): Date:

Student’s Signature: Date:

Student’s UU ID: Course Number:

**Submit this signed form to Patti Todd in the Teacher Education suite.**

**CONSENT TO FINGERPRINTING, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND**

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE 18 OR OLDER**

As a student desiring to enter Union University’s Educator Preparation Program, pursuant to the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-5632 and the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et. al., I hereby agree and consent to the following:

1. To supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation;
2. The release of all investigative records received as a result of the records check to the Program Director and the Dean of Students; and
3. To sign an authorization and release form provided by the state Department of Education or the state Board of Education authorizing a qualified Tennessee licensed private investigator to complete a criminal history records check.

I understand that Union University reserves the right to not admit any student into the Educator Preparation Program, or any other university program, and to take all further action it deems appropriate if a student’s investigative records and criminal background and history check reveal information that puts the student in violation of Union’s student code of conduct, or any other applicable university policy or procedure, or would disqualify the student from the university and/or the Educator Preparation Program under any applicable state or federal law.

I understand that I will be responsible for the payment of all fees associated with the above-referenced fingerprinting and criminal history records check. I further understand that, upon my written request, I will be provided a copy of my investigative records and criminal history background check records obtained by Union University pursuant to this release form, but I may not give the report to a third party..

I understand that, if I am a minor, I must submit to Union University the Parent Consent for Minor Teacher Candidates that has been signed by my parents. Failure to do so may result in my dismissal from the program.

I further acknowledge that I have been provided a copy of Union University’s procedures for completing the fingerprinting and criminal background check, a copy of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, a copy of the Agency Privacy Act, and a copy of the Noncriminal Justice Applicant’s Privacy Rights.

I am to report any arrests or criminal citation to Union’s Assistant Dean for Teacher Education within 24 hours of the incident. Failure to do so may result in my dismissal from the program.

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 Student Signature UU ID Course #

 Printed name Date

**Submit this signed form to Patti Todd in the Teacher Education suite.**

***Para informacion en espanol, visite*** [***www.ftc.gov/credit***](http://www.ftc.gov/credit) ***o escribe a la FTC Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20580.***

**A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act**

 The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Here is a summary of your major rights under the FCRA. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit) or write to: Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580.

* **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you**. Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment – or to take another adverse action against you – must tell you, and must give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information.
* **You have the right to know what is in your file**. You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your “file disclosure”). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:
* A person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report;
* You are the victim of identity theft and place a fraud alert in your file;
* Your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud;
* You are on public assistance;
* You are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

In addition, by September 2005, all consumers will be entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit) for additional information.

* **You have the right to ask for a credit score**. Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.
* **You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information**. If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate, and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit) for an explanation of dispute procedures.
* **Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable** **information**. Inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.
* **Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information**. In most cases, a consumer reporting agency may not report negative information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.
* **Access to your file is limited**. A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need – usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.
* **You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers**. A consumer reporting agency may not give out information about you to your employer, or a potential employer, without your written consent given to the employer. Written consent generally is not required in the trucking industry. For more information, go to [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit).
* **You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your** **credit report**. Unsolicited “prescreened” offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists the lists these offers are based on. You may opt-out with the nationwide credit bureaus at

1-888-5OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

* **You may seek damages from violators**. If a consumer reporting agency or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.
* **Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights**. For more information, visit [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit).

**States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General. Federal enforcers are:**

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| **TYPE OF BUSINESS** | **CONTACT** |
| Consumer reporting agencies, creditors and others not listed below. | Federal Trade Commission: Consumer Response Center – FCRA Washington, DC 20580 1-877-382-4357 |
| National banks, federal branches/agencies of foreign banks (word “National” or initials “N.A.” appear in or after bank’s name). | Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Compliance Management, Mail Stop 6-6Washington DC 20219 1-800-613-6743 |
| Federal Reserve System member banks (except national banks, and federal branches/agencies of foreign banks). | Federal Reserve BoardDivision of Consumer & Community AffairsWashington, DC 20551 202-452-3693  |
| Savings associations and federally chartered savings banks (word “Federal” or initials “F.S.B.” appear in federal institution’s name). | Office of Thrift SupervisionConsumer ComplaintsWashington, DC 20552 1-800-842-6929 |
| Federal credit unions (words “Federal Credit Union” appear in institution’s name). | National Credit Union Administration1775 Duke StreetAlexandria, VA 22314 703-519-4600 |
| State-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System. | Federal Deposit Insurance CorporationConsumer Response Center, 2345 Grand Ave., Ste. 100Kansas City, MO 64108-2638 1-877-275-3342 |
| Air, surface, or rail common carriers regulated by former Civil Aeronautics Board or Interstate Commerce Commission. | Department of Transportation Office of Financial ManagementWashington, DC 20590 202-366-1306 |
| Activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921. | Department of AgricultureOffice of Deputy Administrator – GIPSAWashington, DC 20250 202-720-7051 |



