



UIC University of Illinois
at Chicago

Council on Teacher Education
1040 W. Harrison (M/C147) Room 3015
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7133
Phone: (312) 355-0714 Fax: (312) 355-0720
<http://www.uic.edu/educ/cte>

CITIZENSHIP AND CRIMINAL OFFENSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

The purpose of this form is to notify you that there are certain attributes that may disqualify you from certification with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Although those attributes may not disqualify you from admission to the school social work program at UIC, you should be aware that admission to and graduation from the UIC program does not guarantee teacher certification within the State of Illinois.

United States Citizenship

The Illinois School Code, specifically 105 ILCS 5/21-1, establishes the qualifications of teachers for certification in this State. Effective January 1, 2004, that statute was amended to require an applicant for certification who is not a citizen of the United States to sign and file with the Illinois State Board of Education a letter of intent indicating that either (1) within 10 years after the date that the letter is filed or (2) at the earliest opportunity after the person becomes eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship, the person will apply for U.S. citizenship.

Illinois Law on Criminal Offense

Certain types of criminal convictions, including but not limited to Class X felonies, certain sexual offenses, and certain narcotics/drug offenses (see Criminal Offense Attachment) may prevent you from obtaining teacher certification from the ISBE and/or employment in a teaching position in the state of Illinois.

Please be aware that candidates who apply for certification with the Illinois State Board of Education are asked the following questions on the application:

1. Have you ever had a certificate denied, suspended or revoked in Illinois or any other state?
2. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or any sex, narcotics, or drug offense in Illinois or any other state?
3. Have you ever failed to file a tax return with the Illinois Department of Revenue, or failed to pay any tax, penalty, or interest owed or any final assessment of same for any tax as required by law administered by that Department that was not subsequently resolved to the Department's satisfaction?
4. Have you ever been named by a state agency responsible for child welfare as a perpetrator in an indicated report of child abuse or neglect if such report was not reversed after exhaustion of any appeal?
5. Are you in default on an Illinois student loan for which you have failed to establish a satisfactory repayment plan with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission?

According to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), each application is reviewed on its own merits with attention paid to evidence of good character and rehabilitation in light of the nature of the offense. There are specific rules involved in these cases.

1. At least one year must have elapsed from the termination of sentence or end of probation.
2. You must provide a statement in your own words describing the circumstances of the crime.
3. You must provide a certified copy of the court record of conviction.
4. You must provide original statements attesting to your good character and rehabilitation. These statements must come from employers, civic leaders, college instructors, and others in a position to attest to your character and rehabilitation.

ISBE will review the documentation thoroughly and determine whether or not to issue a certificate, based upon the degree to which the evidence of good character and rehabilitation outweighs the offense. You should also note that each school district is required to do a criminal background check on every employee, and a school district may choose not to hire an individual with a criminal record, even if that individual received a certificate from the state.

As an applicant to a teacher education program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, if you have been convicted of crime, you should contact Lisa W. Jones, the UIC Coordinator of Certification. Upon self-disclosure at any time during candidacy, the CTE will ask you to provide them with documentation required by the state, above. An ad-hoc panel will review, without knowing your identity, your documentation in order to determine whether or not UIC will entitle you to apply for certification when you have successfully met all of your program requirements. They will also forward that documentation to ISBE. An entitlement by UIC does not guarantee certification, and ISBE is still required to conduct a review. However, going through the process at UIC before applying for certification may decrease the time it takes for the review by the state and signals to those doing the ISBE review that UIC has approved your application. If you do not disclose a criminal background during your candidacy, ISBE may view that non-disclosure negatively.

Acknowledgement

I, _____, UIN _____,
(PRINT NAME)

confirm that I have read and that I understand the information provided in this Citizenship and Criminal Offense Acknowledgment Form. I further understand that certain criminal offenses and/or my citizenship status may prevent me from obtaining teacher certification and/or employment in a teaching position in the State of Illinois.

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

Criminal Offense Attachment

The following list of felony offenses may disqualify a person from teacher certification by ISBE. THIS LIST IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE IN NATURE. The Council on Teacher Education makes no representations as to the accuracy of this list. As such, if you are concerned about a particular type of criminal conviction, you should contact ISBE directly to inquire further.

- Solicitation of murder (720 ILCS 5/8-1.1)
- Solicitation of murder for hire (720 ILCS 5/8-1.2)
- Attempt to commit first degree murder (720 ILCS 5/8-4(1))
- Attempt to commit a Class X felony (720 ILCS 5/8-4(2))
- First Degree murder (720 ILCS 5/9-1)
- Drug induced homicide (720 ILCS 5/9-3.3)
- Any Class X felony, including:
 - Aggravated kidnapping (720 ILCS 5/10-2)
 - Aggravated Battery (720 ILCS 5/12-4.3)
 - Home Invasion (720 ILCS 12-11)
 - Armed Robbery (720 ILCS 18-2)
 - Aggravated Discharge of Firearm/Police Officer (720 ILCS 5/24-1.2)
 - Armed Violence (720 ILCS 5/33 A-2)
 - Heinous Battery (720 ILCS 5/12-4.1)
 - Aggravated battery with a firearm (720 ILCS 5/12-4.2)
 - Aggravated Battery of a child (720 ILCS 5/12-4.3)
 - Home invasion (720 ILCS 5/12-11)
 - Aggravated vehicular hijacking (720 ILCS 5/18-4)
 - Aggravated arson (720 ILCS 5/20-1.1)
 - Unlawful use of weapons (710) 5/24-1(a)(7)(i)*
 - Unlawful use or possession of weapons (720 ILCS 5/24-1.1)*
 - Aggravated discharge of a firearm (720 ILCS 5/24-1.2(a)(3),(a)(4),(a)(5),(a)(6))
 - Unlawful discharge of metal piercing bullets (720 ILCS 5/24-3.2)*
 - Treason (720 ILCS 5/30-1)
 - Bringing contraband into a penal institution*
 - Unauthorized bringing of contraband into a penal institution by an employee*
 - Contributing to the criminal delinquency of a juvenile*
- Certain Sex Offenses, including:
 - Indecent solicitation of a child (720 ILCS 5/11-6)
 - Indecent solicitation of an adult (720 ILCS 5/11-6.5(a)(1)(i))
 - Public indecency (720 ILCS 5/11-9)
 - Prostitution (720 ILCS 5/11-14)
 - Soliciting for a prostitute (720 ILCS 5/11-15)
 - Soliciting a juvenile prostitute (720 ILCS 5/11-15.1)
 - Pandering (720 ILCS 5/11-16)
 - Keeping a place of prostitution (720 ILCS 5/11-17)
 - Keeping a place of juvenile prostitution (720 ILCS 5/11-18)

- Patronizing a prostitute (720 ILCS 5/11-18)¹
- Pimping (720 ILCS 5/11-19)
- Juvenile pimping (720 ILCS 5/11-19.1)
- Exploitation of a child (720 ILCS 5/11-19.2)
- Obscenity (720 ILCS 5/11-20)
- Child pornography (720 ILCS 5/11-20.1)
- Harmful material (720 ILCS 5/11-21)
- Criminal sexual assault (720 ILCS 5/12-13)
- Aggravated criminal sexual assault (720 ILCS 5/12-14)
- Predatory criminal sexual assault of a child (720 ILCS 5/12-14.1)
- Criminal sexual abuse (720 ILCS 5/12-15)
- Aggravated criminal sexual abuse (720 ILCS 5/12-16)
- Ritualized abuse of a child (720 ILCS 5/18-2)
- Certain offenses under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act involving cocaine, PCP, heroin, and cannabis (720 ILCS 570/(all convictions), and
 - Possession of cannabis (720 ILCS 550/4(c), (d), (e), (f), (g))
 - Manufacture or delivery of cannabis (720 ILCS 550/5 (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g))
 - Cannabis trafficking (720 ILCS 550/5.1)
 - Delivery of cannabis on school grounds (720 ILCS 550/5.2)
 - Casual delivery of cannabis (720 ILCS 550/6)
 - Delivery of cannabis to persons under 18 years of age (720 ILCS 550/7)
 - Calculated criminal cannabis conspiracy (720 ILCS 550/9)
- Any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States, which, if committed or attempted in Illinois, would have been punishable as one or more of the foregoing offenses.

¹Convictions under 720 ILCS 5/11-17.1 would only prohibit employment if they resulted from a second or subsequent violation of this provision.

*Only under certain circumstances do convictions under these provisions prohibit employment. If a conviction under this provision is at issue, the Illinois Criminal Code or an attorney should be consulted.

**Note that under the pertinent *School Code* provisions, the conviction record received pursuant to the criminal background check mandate must be kept confidential and may be shared only with the District's Superintendent of Schools, Regional Superintendent, State Superintendent of Schools, State Teacher Certification Board, or other person necessary to the hiring process. *The School Code* also requires that the job applicant be provided a copy of their criminal conviction record obtained from the Illinois Department of State Police.

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(Student Copy)

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