

Georgia Southern University
School of Nursing
Criminal Background Checks

July 12, 2006

Statement on Criminal Background Checks for Students in the School of Nursing

This statement is issued to advise students currently enrolled in Georgia Southern University School of Nursing programs of a new requirement that may affect their eligibility to participate in clinical rotations or practica experiences and ultimately their ability to graduate from the nursing program. Beginning in the Fall 2006 semester, students participating in clinical placements through the School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University, are placed at facilities that now require students to have a criminal background check as a prerequisite to their placement at the facility.

Students placed in all clinical experiences are personally responsible for obtaining a background check (including cost). The company PreCheck will be used to secure student criminal background checks. Each Clinical affiliate will independently review students' background checks and make the final decision, based on its own criteria, as to whether each student will be allowed to participate in clinical activities at the affiliate clinical site. Georgia Southern University does not assume any responsibility for performing or evaluating the background check, delivering the documents to the facility, or maintaining the records. Decisions as to whether a student is ineligible for placement at a particular clinical site based on results of the check are those of the clinical site alone. All students must complete the criminal background check and may not request to be assigned to specific sites that do not require a criminal background check. The School of Nursing will make reasonable efforts to place admitted students in a clinical experience. Students who cannot be placed in clinical experiences because of problems with their criminal background checks will not be able to complete program requirements.

Finally, students are also reminded that the Georgia Board of Nursing may deny, suspend or revoke a license if an applicant has a criminal history or if any licensee is convicted, pleads guilty or *nolo contendere* to a felony or other crime. Students should consult the Georgia Board of Nursing for more details regarding possible Board of Nursing actions related to personal background record issues. Successful completion of a program of study in the School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University does not guarantee licensure or employment in the nursing profession.