

Mineral Area College Criminal Background Check Policy

The following criminal background policy has been established to insure the safety and well-being of young children. Students attending Mineral Area College and enrolled in Early Child Development courses that require observation and/or working directly with young children are required to undergo a criminal background check through the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The student will not be allowed to conduct any field work-related experiences until the criminal background check has been received by the department chair. The background checks can take up to six weeks to be returned. Therefore, it is recommended that the student apply at least four weeks prior to the enrolled semester that any observations or practicum experiences are required. ALL ECE and EDU courses in the Early Child Development program requires observations and/or practicum experiences.

Failure of the student to complete the process or if the report is returned with criminal activity, the student will not be allowed to complete any field experiences with young children. It is the student's responsibility to meet the requirements of the policy. If they are not met, the student can be dropped from the course and possibly the program.

Not all information received from the criminal background check is grounds for dismissal from the program. The obvious charges of child molestation, drug and/or alcohol abuse, or child abuse/neglect are grounds for dismissal. It is ultimately up to the department chair to make the final decision. The student has the right to appeal the decision through the Mineral Area College's Student Welfare Committee. This policy and procedure is written under the Revised Missouri Statutes, 43.540, and 589.400 – 425 (criminal background checks)

This information has been provided to me on _____
Month/Day/Year

Student Signature