

Want to be a Teacher?



Please read the following information about Teacher Licensure and criminal background checks BEFORE you begin your education classes.

Arkansas law requires ALL first-time applicants for teacher licensure to undergo a statewide and nationwide criminal background check and a Child Maltreatment Central Registry check.

An application for an Arkansas teaching license will be DENIED for anyone who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any of the listed offenses or has a *true* report in the Arkansas Child Maltreatment Central Registry. While this denial may be appealed to the Arkansas State Board of Education, there is no guarantee that the appeal will be granted.

Some of these offenses include:

- Any felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act
 - Rape
 - Felony Theft
 - First, Second, or Third Degree Sexual Assault
 - First or Second Degree Battery
 - Distribution to Minors
 - Aggravated Assault
 - Robbery
 - First Degree Assault
 - Breaking or Entering
 - First Degree Terroristic Threatening
- (see Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c) for the complete list of disqualifying offenses)*

Even if your record has been expunged or pardoned for any disqualifying offense, you will NOT be able to receive an Arkansas teaching license without your appeal being granted by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

If you have any questions about whether your prior criminal record will keep you from getting your teaching license, please read Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 and/or consult your attorney.

The Arkansas Code can be found by accessing the following link and typing 6-17-410 in the search box: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/arcodes/Default.asp>