

# **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND CERTIFICATION DISCLAIMER**

*(Approved via EPPC 4/18/2018)*

To student teach, [a criminal background check is required by the State of West Virginia](#) for both in- and out-of-state placements. Shepherd University has no control over the issuance of teaching permits.

Teacher candidates with a record of any criminal activity need to be aware that regardless of academic performance, it is possible that the State will deny the issuance of a permit.

Denial will prevent the candidate from completing a degree in education until such time that an appeal results in overturning the initial denial and a permit is subsequently issued. (All inquiries regarding appeals should be directed to the [WV Department of Education](#).)

Additionally, candidates need to be aware that following graduation, a criminal background check will be repeated and even if an appeal results in the issuance of a permit, there is no guarantee of approval for certification.

It is not possible to predict these outcomes and it is not possible to get binding commitments in advance.

Candidates should evaluate independently whether or not to commit time, financial, and other resources prior to pursuing the program knowing of these contingencies.