

Propose Changes to Process for Admission, Retention & Graduation from Teacher Certification Programs

The following changes are proposed to take effect beginning in Summer 2012.

CHANGE #1 (Item I. C. h and Item III. i.)

Change: Move to a single fingerprint (FBI and Illinois State Police) based Criminal Background Investigation. This background investigation would be formally required for University Approval to Take Teacher Education Courses, however most students would need to complete it in order to participate in early field experiences during their introduction to education course (ELE 2000, SED 2000, CTE 2000, etc). The second required criminal background check would then be eliminated.

Rationale: For fingerprint based checks the Illinois State Police now provides a feature that gives updates if an individual's criminal history record changes. The background check we now require is simply a point in time check that is not updated until we have them printed prior to student teaching. This change helps us ensure that we do not place candidates who might have had incidents occur that should preclude them from being in the public schools.

CHANGE #2 (Item IV.d.)

Change: Require APT for completion/graduation from approved teacher education program. Previously, the APT was not a graduation requirement but rather a requirement for certification.

Rationale: With the enactment of PA097-0607, the APT becomes a requirement for completion of an approved teacher education program.