

Notification of Disqualifiers for Employment in the Criminal Justice Profession

Before a student declares a major in Criminal Justice and completes the degree, he/she should be aware that employment in the Criminal Justice profession has requirements that are distinct from those in other professions. Although there may be some variance between Criminal Justice agencies, the following is a list of common disqualifiers and requirements:

Background Investigations, conducted by agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the state Criminal Identification Bureau, are required for employment in the criminal justice profession. These background checks reveal such items as prior arrests, prior criminal convictions, drug and or alcohol abuse, poor credit scores and a variety of other previous behavior issues. Any of these factors may be a disqualifier for employment.

Written Examinations vary and the applicant should check with the agency to which application is being made. There are generally minimum passing scores that must be achieved for employment qualification.

Physical Ability Examinations vary and the applicant should check with the agency to which application is being made. There are generally minimum standards that must be met for employment qualification.

Domestic Violence Convictions are a definite disqualifier from any Criminal Justice profession in which the carrying of a firearm is expected or required.

Driving Under the Influence Conviction (DUI) can be a potential disqualifier from employment, dependent upon the agency guidelines.

Polygraph Examinations are frequently used to verify background information. Deception on a polygraph examination may result in disqualification.

Psychological Assessments can include written as well as oral assessments. The results of the psychological assessments may result in disqualification from employment.

Medical Examinations include medical guidelines established by each agency. Failure to meet any medical guideline may result in disqualification from employment.

Body Art is an emerging issue in the employment process for Criminal Justice Agencies. Each agency has certain specific disqualifiers.

Review of Social Media is a common practice by all employers, but particularly Criminal Justice Agencies. Pictures or other postings viewed as incompatible with the image and standards of the agency may be an employment disqualifier.

As a Criminal Justice major at West Virginia State University, before I continue in my degree and before I seek employment in the Criminal Justice profession, I fully understand, that I may be denied employment in my major field due to any of the aforementioned disqualifiers.

I have read this information, and verify that West Virginia State University has made me aware of these disqualifiers as a condition for employment in the Criminal Justice field.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____