

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## NURSING PROGRAMS

### CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

Changes are taking place within the healthcare facilities at the national and state levels in order to maintain the safety of patients/clients in the agencies where they are receiving care.

In September 2004, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), which accredits healthcare facilities across the nation, enforces background screening and has set requirements mandating that students in a healthcare field must now complete the same background check as hospital employees.

February 2006 Governor Jennifer Granholm signed legislation to strengthen criminal background checks in long term care facilities stating, "This legislation is to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens". Long term care will include skilled nursing facilities, long-term care hospitals, hospitals with swing beds, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation, home health agencies, residential care and assisted living facilities and hospices. This law is in effect as of April 1, 2006.

To be in compliance with JCAHO requirements, the above law and the Michigan Compiled Laws Section 333.20173, students in nursing programs must complete a criminal background check to be able to use clinical sites. The student will incur the cost of the background investigation (\$95). The Nursing Department contracted with an outside agency to conduct these services: American Data Bank.

Admission or readmission to the Nursing program will be denied for the following: Any felony conviction or attempt/conspiracy to commit a felony within 15 years preceding the date of the check, **OR** any misdemeanor within 10 years prior to the date of check that involved or is similar to the following:

1. Abuse, neglect, assault, battery
2. Criminal sexual conduct
3. Fraud or theft against a vulnerable adult (as defined by the Michigan penal code or similar misdemeanor in state or federal law), but not limited to such crimes against a vulnerable adult.
4. Criminal activity involving controlled substances such as sale, possession, distribution or transfer of various narcotics or controlled substances.
5. Any alcohol related misdemeanor.

The following searches are required for Nursing students attending health care facilities for clinical through Oakland Community College:

1. Michigan Criminal History Record Search
2. Social Security Number Trace (residential history, date and year SSN issued)
3. OIG Sanction Report (Medical/Medicaid excluded lists)
4. Nationwide Sex Offender Registry
5. Previous Employment Verification
6. 10 Panel + Alcohol Drug Screen
7. FBI Fingerprinting

Once admitted to a nursing or allied health program, students subsequently convicted of crimes listed above will be dismissed from the Nursing Program. It is the student's responsibility to report changes in the status of his/her criminal background to the Dean of Nursing and Health Professions.