Physician Assistant Program (PAP) applications request disclosure of any misdemeanors or felony convictions, other than minimal traffic violations, including deferred adjudication, with a statement that non-disclosure/falsification may lead to dismissal.

A criminal background check will be completed on all applicants accepted annually to the PAP entering class.

The criminal background check will be initiated at the time an applicant is accepted (and deposited) to the school or at the request of a school admissions officer regarding (a) wait-listed applicant (s).

The criminal background check is not a component of the application, interview, or decision-making process for the school. It is a mandatory component of the post-acceptance matriculation process. The letter sent by the school to each accepted applicant (and, at times, to selected wait-listed applicants) will include information about this requirement (s), with the contingency that the final decision about PAP matriculation be made after institutional review of the accepted applicant’s criminal background check report.

Appropriate authorization, with pertinent identifying information necessary to initiate the check, will be received from each accepted applicant prior to initiating a criminal background check. This authorization will inform the accepted applicant that he/she will have access to criminal background check data about himself/herself to ensure the accuracy of the criminal background check report.

Ultimate decisions about the matriculation of an accepted applicant whose criminal background check reveals information of concern will be made by an ad hoc committee of the PAP Admissions Committee.
No information derived from a criminal background check will automatically disqualify any accepted applicant from PAP matriculation. A final decision about matriculation will be made only after a careful review of factors including:

- The nature, circumstances, and frequency of any offense(s)
- The length of time since the offense(s)
- Documented successful rehabilitation
- The accuracy of the information provided by the applicant in his/her application materials.

Information from these reports that is unrelated to decisions about admissions and continued enrollment will be maintained in the office of the dean of Medical Education and not become part of the students’ permanent file.

Information obtained will only be used in accord with state and federal laws.

Enrolled students are required to disclose any misdemeanor or felony convictions other than minimal traffic violations, including deferred adjudication, within thirty days of occurrence to the Office of Student Affairs. Non-disclosure or falsification may be grounds for dismissal or degree revocation.