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| **Policy on Background Verification**  |
| **Summary of Policy: Guidelines for Background Verification**  |
| **Dept. or Position Responsible for Policy: Human Resources**  |
| **Date of Last Revision: 09/08/2015** |

***Objective:*** In an effort to support Juniata College’s mission of providing the highest quality liberal arts education, it is important to have qualified employees and allow for a safe and secure environment for the students, employees, and visitors of the College and complies with ACT 15 (HB 1276). Background verifications help to protect the funds, property, and other College assets**.**

**GENERAL POLICY:**

It is Juniata College policy that all new Faculty, Administration, Supporting Staff (including hourly employees), Facilities, volunteers, non-employees, and qualifying student workers have credential, criminal, and basic background information verified as a condition of employment. Current College employees who provide a program, activity, or service and come into direct contact to non-matriculated minors are required to undergo the following three checks every 60 months:

* Pennsylvania Criminal History Records Check
* Pennsylvania State Child Abuse Clearance Check
* Federal Criminal History Records/FBI Check

Faculty, adjuncts, Enrollment staff, camps and conferences staff, coaches, custodians, staff who work with dual enrollment students and any others who come into direct contact with non-matriculated minors that is integral to their employment with the College are required to receive these background checks

Motor Vehicle Record checks will be conducted for employees who will be driving company vehicles or who will be driving on behalf of the College.

Credit History Checks will be conducted for positions involving financial responsibility, including, but not limited to positions within the Accounting Department.

International Record Verification will be required for non U.S. citizens, where available. The search will be based on each countries laws and regulations. International databases, such as INTERPOL, will also be used for verification purposes.

If any notice of address discrepancy is received for prospective new employees, we will request a copy of the applicant’s driver’s license or other proof of current address.

The results of all background checks will be returned directly to the Office of Human Resources to insure all Fair Credit Reporting Act regulations are followed.

**DEFINITION OF SEARCHES TO BE CONDUCTED FOR NEW INDIVIDUALS:**

Social Security Verification – this search verifies and analyzes social security numbers to match previous address information and potential alias.

 Pennsylvania Criminal History Records Check– is a check of criminal history information obtained from the Pennsylvania State Police that is maintained in the Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository.

Pennsylvania State Child Abuse Clearance Check is a check that includes a certification from the Department of Human Services as to whether the applicant is named in the statewide database as an alleged perpetrator in a pending, indicated or founded child abuse investigation in Pennsylvania.

* Federal Criminal History Records/FBI Check is a check of federal criminal history information obtained by the submission of a full set of fingerprints to the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent.

Education Verification – this search verifies dates of attendance, degree awarded, major, minor and other certificates achieved.

Employment Verification – this search will verify dates of employment, position held, salary, full or part-time status, attendance, reason for leaving, and eligibility for rehire for employers within the past 5 years or up to three verifications.

Motor Vehicle Record Search – this search will provide current license class, status, restrictions, endorsements and violations reported by the state’s Department of Motor Vehicles.

Credit History Check – this search will provide type of creditor, origination dates, current status, transaction amount, current balance, and delinquent account information.

**RELEASE TO CHECK BACKGROUND:**

Candidates must be willing to sign a release in order to receive an interview. The release must be signed and returned on or before the day of the interview.

After the initial consent is signed, the College reserves the right to recheck background information at any time during employment.

**DISQUALIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

If an applicant or employee does not complete the required release, or if the results of the investigation are unsatisfactory, an official authorization of employment or continued employment will not be offered.

Juniata College has a zero tolerance policy for applicants or employees who do not disclose criminal history or who fabricate information.

Disqualification or discharge criteria will be on a case by case basis. Decisions will be based upon the position, type of offense, and date of offense in accordance with EEOC recommendations.

**ADVERSE ACTION POLICY:**

If disqualifying criteria are reported, Human Resources will send candidate or employee a Pre-Adverse Action Notification letter. At this time, the candidate or employee has ten calendar days to contact our third-party consultant to discuss information reported. After ten calendar days, an Adverse Action letter will be sent and the candidate will not be eligible for hire. Employees could be subject to discharge.

If a candidate is ineligible for hire, Human Resources will contact the hiring manager and inform him or her of candidate ineligibility. Employees are subject to discharge. In order to maintain privacy, the reason for ineligibility or discharge will not be disclosed.

**CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OFFERS:**

For certain critical positions, conditional offers may be extended to an applicant before the investigation process is complete. An affidavit must be completed and signed by the applicant. If the investigation reports an adverse background, the applicant will be suspended and the adverse action policy will be followed. After ten calendar days, if the report is not corrected, the applicant will be terminated immediately.

Please see FAQ on Background Verifications for further details.