

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FOR UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS

No student may register without a blue card (indicating a clear report) or an outcome/approval letter from the Texas Board of Nursing (BON).

<https://www.bon.texas.gov/students.asp>

Background Checks and Fingerprinting

Criminal background checks are performed on all applicants for Licensure in Texas. A criminal background check must be completed through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) based on the set of fingerprints you provide to MorphoTrust. The BON cannot accept fingerprint cards or criminal background check results mailed by the applicant, or results that were completed for another facility, even if the previous check was completed through the DPS and the FBI.

https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/forms_pdfs/applications_pdfs/fp-generalinst.pdf

New/Accepted Student Criminal Background Check Process

https://www.bon.texas.gov/students_new_accept_student.asp

Once students have been accepted and placed the Board of Nursing roster, the school provides the Service Code Form to the students listed on the roster and advises them to schedule their fingerprinting.

The BON receives information from The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding the criminal background check (CBC) results and staff inputs this data within ten business days.

a) Individuals whose CBC came back completely clear are mailed a blue card within ten (10) business days of the BON receiving the DPS and FBI results.

b) Individuals whose CBC did not come back completely clear are sent a letter requesting a Petition for Declaratory Order (D.O.), personal statement of events, and copies of court documentation related to what incidences need to be reviewed.

FAQ about Background checks

https://www.bon.texas.gov/faq_new_and_accept_student_STUDENT2.asp#a5

I have just been admitted to a Nursing program. What is my first step to obtaining my fingerprinting or BON background check?

Students will receive an email with an institution-specific code and instructions from their BSN program and will be able to schedule their fingerprinting appointment with the information on that email.

I already know that something is going to show up on my background check. Can I mail the documentation before the BON has the CBC results?

You may write the letter of explanation and start accumulating the necessary documentation; however, we recommend that you wait until receiving a letter from the BON to ensure that all incidences are addressed. Not following this procedure could delay the processing.

Are there any circumstances in which a student is recommended to start the Declaratory Order Process *before* fingerprints?

Yes, but only students who have in the past five (5) years been diagnosed with or treated or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality

disorder, or borderline personality disorder which impaired or does impair behavior, judgment, or ability to function in school or work must disclose that to the BON.

Also, students who have within the past five (5) years been addicted to and treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug must disclose that to the BON.

Initial Licensure and Recognition Forms - Declaratory Order (DO): see this link for more information on the DO.
https://www.bon.texas.gov/forms_declaratory_order.asp