

CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION

CONSIDERING A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM AND HAVE A CONVICTION, PENDING OFFENSE, OR SUSPENDED IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE?

Please read the following information and then contact Bel-Rea's Student Services Coordinator to discuss if your specific criminal history or pending case will be a barrier to veterinary technician credentialing, employment, volunteer work, and internships **before** committing your time and resources to a veterinary technician training program.

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IMPORTANT: Students who cannot participate in the mandatory final quarter clinical internship due to criminal or other adverse activities will not fulfill the requirements for an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology degree at Bel-Rea.

WHY IS A CRIMINAL HISTORY A BARRIER FOR A CAREER AS A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN?

The nature of the veterinary medicine field demands professional conduct and ethics. The high level of access to controlled substances and the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) regulatory supervision of veterinary settings justifies the need for assessing criminal history for volunteer positions, student jobs, clinical internships, professional credentialing, and graduate level employment.

Veterinarians, who are DEA Registrants, are specifically directed by the DEA to not hire individuals or allow volunteers in their clinics who would probably be denied a DEA registration due to a criminal history. Even conduct that has led to *consideration* of criminal charges is sufficient to deny or revoke a DEA registration.

TYPICAL DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES FOR VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY OR HUMAN NURSING:

- Any offense which is still pending in the courts, including suspended imposition of sentence.
- Any misdemeanor or felony committed in the course of veterinary or medical practice.
- Any misdemeanor or felony related to the sale, possession, transfer, or distribution of controlled substances or narcotics.
- Any violent felony, felony theft crime, or misdemeanor theft crime.
- Any crime of violence (e.g. assault, arson, domestic violence, animal cruelty).
- Any sex crime or crime of child abuse; Registered Sex Offenders.
- Crimes of moral turpitude (e.g. prostitution, public exposure).
- More than one D.U.I. or D.W.I.

This is not an all-inclusive list. Some offenses have no time limit; other offenses may have a time limit of 2 to 10 years. Additional veterinary technician screening processes may include drug tests and assessing credit history, child support payment history, driving record, etc.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION GUIDELINES:

- All U.S. employers have the right to ask about an applicant's arrest or conviction history.
- If an employer chooses to perform background checks, they must do so consistently, and show that they have a business need to bar employees with conviction records from the job being sought. Decisions must be made based on the nature and gravity of the offense, the time since the conviction and/or completion of the sentence, and the nature of the job held or sought.