



About the AAMC-Facilitated Background Check Service

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recommends that all US medical schools procure a national background check on applicants upon their conditional acceptance to medical school. The rationale for performing criminal background checks on accepted medical school applicants is based on a number of issues, including the need to enhance the safety and well-being of patients and, in so doing, to bolster the public's continuing trust in the medical profession, and to ascertain the ability of accepted applicants to eventually become licensed physicians.

The AAMC has initiated an AMCAS-facilitated national background check service, through which Certiphi Screening, Inc. (a Vertical Screen® Company) will procure a national background report on early decision program applicants at the point of acceptance and all other applicants at the point of acceptance after January 1st. In addition, beginning in May of each year, a national background report will be procured for a subset of applicants who are on a participating school's alternate list; medical schools will not receive such reports until the point of acceptance. The AAMC has initiated this service in order to recognize the desire of medical schools to procure appropriate national criminal history reports, and to prevent applicants from paying additional fees at each medical school to which they are accepted.

During the AMCAS 2010 application year, participating medical schools may continue to require applicants to undergo a separate national background check process, if required to do so by their own institutional regulations or by applicable state law. Many medical schools not participating may also require applicants to undergo a separate national background check process.

Background Check Details

Certiphi Screening, Inc. will procure a background report on early decision program applicants at the point of acceptance and all other applicants at the point of acceptance after January 1st. An e-mail will be sent to applicants by Certiphi Screening Inc., at the preferred e-mail address entered in the AMCAS application by the applicant.

Once you have provided consent, Certiphi Screening, Inc. will procure a national background check on you. Once the report is complete, Certiphi Screening, Inc. will send

an e-mail to your preferred e-mail address requesting that you review the report prior to its distribution. Upon receiving this e-mail:

You will have ten (10) calendar days from the date this e-mail is sent to review your report prior to this report being made available to the participating medical schools who request this report. If you do not review this report, the report will be distributed after this period elapses.

You will be provided with an opportunity to contest the contents of the report within the specified ten (10) calendar day period.

Once you have reviewed and released this report, or after the specified ten (10) calendar day period has elapsed, the report procured on you will be made available to the participating medical school(s) who offered an acceptance and initiated the request for this report.

Additional Notes:

If this report has been procured prior to your acceptance by a participating school, the report will not be made available to that school until the AAMC receives notice of your acceptance.

Upon your initial, conditional acceptance to an additional, participating medical school, the report will be made available to additional, participating school(s) offering the acceptance, after January 1st.

The report procured during this process will not be released to any party other than the medical schools requesting this report. On the report, history including infractions and juvenile records will be displayed to the applicant but medical schools vary on the content they can and will view.