

Policy on the Consideration of Criminal History in the Undergraduate Application Process

I. PURPOSE

The policy of the State of Maryland is to promote the admission of students with criminal records, including formerly incarcerated individuals, and to provide these students with the opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the State's economy. To that end, Goucher College has developed this policy regarding the consideration of criminal history in the undergraduate application process.

II. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In accordance with Maryland law, Goucher does not include a question on its admissions' applications regarding an applicant's criminal background. However, Goucher uses the Common Application in its admission process, and that application includes the following question:

Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

III. RECEIPT OF INFORMATION THROUGH OTHER SOURCES

Goucher may receive information about the criminal background of applicants through sources other than a Goucher or the Common Application. Although Goucher does not generally conduct background checks of applicants for admission, Goucher reserves the right to conduct investigations of applicants if information related to a criminal background comes to the college's attention. Information obtained from these sources will be evaluated as provided in paragraph 4.

IV. PROCESS FOR EVALUATING INFORMATION REGARDING CRIMINAL HISTORY

Goucher considers information about criminal history that comes to its attention for the purposes of determining admission to the academic program and access to campus residence halls. However, a criminal history does not disqualify an applicant from admission to the college and will be considered by the college as part of its holistic admissions process.

Specifically, if information about an applicant's criminal history comes to the attention of the college, the admissions office will review such information together with other information about the applicant, and make a final determination about admissions. In making this determination, the admissions office will consider the following factors and thereafter communicate its final decision to the applicant:

- The age of the student at the time any aspect of the criminal history occurred;
- Time elapsed since criminal history occurred;
- Nature of the criminal history;

- Evidence of rehabilitation or good conduct; and
- The safety and security of members of the campus community and campus assets.

With respect to applications of students who request housing on Goucher's campus, the admissions office will consult with the office of the vice president and dean of students, or designee, who will make the final decision regarding whether the student may reside in the college's residential facilities. The college will take into consideration the above factors in making this determination.