



YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Psychiatry / Psychology Section

Doctoral Internship Policy & Procedures

Background Check Policy

Revised 09-08-16

- 1. Yale University:** Yale University requires that matched interns/fellows complete a background check prior to the start of the internship. This includes a criminal history check, a confirmation of previous employment, and a verification of educational background and social security number. With regard to the criminal history check, there are no automatic disqualifying convictions. Convictions for misdemeanor and felony crimes are reviewed, with attention paid to the severity of the crime and its relationship to the position the applicant will hold. The applicant is always afforded the opportunity to explain the circumstances of a conviction. However, depending on the circumstances, a misdemeanor or felony conviction could result in a disqualification and dismissal from the internship.
- 2. Yale-New Haven Hospital:** Interns/fellows matched to a placement at Yale-New Haven Hospital complete a questionnaire as part of their credentialing application. The hospital does not conduct a background check unless the intern/fellow acknowledges on the questionnaire a history of issues such as: criminal convictions, addiction to drugs or alcohol, other health issues that impair ability to practice, disciplinary actions related to the delivery of health care, and malpractice claims against the individual. There are no issues that automatically disqualify a matched intern/fellow from an internship at YNHH. Each issue is reviewed, with attention paid to its severity and its relationship to the position the applicant will hold. The applicant is always afforded the opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding the issue. However, depending upon the circumstances, any of these issues could result in a disqualification and dismissal from the internship.
- 3. Connecticut Mental Health Center:** For interns/fellows matched to a placement at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, the Center does not conduct a separate background check, with just one exception. Fellows with a placement at the CMHC Child and Adolescent Service in West Haven must complete the following as a requirement of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), which funds the Service: a criminal records check; a child welfare records check; and a health screen. Occurrence of the following during the past five years or during internship may preclude starting or completing this internship: conviction on offenses involving possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance; or substantiation of child abuse or neglect. The presence of a current health problem that poses a threat to the well being of children may also preclude starting the internship.