

As of January 2004, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and other Organizations (JCAHO) added a new standard for its accreditations involving personal background checks. This standard states that any health care facility that requires employees to have personal criminal backgrounds checks must also require the same background check for students and volunteers involved in patient care. This is a national standard for hospital accreditations designed to protect the health and safety of its patient population.

As students must meet applicable hospital security standards for placement in mandatory clinical rotations, effective Fall semester 2005 College of the Desert Health Science courses requiring patient care contact in a JCAHO accredited facility will mandate criminal background checks of enrolled students.

The criminal background check policy and procedure for meeting this mandated prerequisite is available from the division office. The student shall be responsible for payment of any associated costs of a criminal background check. The student shall also be responsible for securing the background check prior to the start of the school term by ordering online and payment via credit card.

As of October 2007 the fee for the background check is \$48. Cost is subject to change without notification.