Due Process

Students have the right to due process when they have been denied admission to teacher education and when the student has been dropped from the program. See the section on Retention in the Program for an explanation of the procedure for due process upon being dropped from the program.

A student who feels he/she has been treated unfairly on being denied admission will follow the following procedure:

1. Schedule an appointment with an advisor to discuss the matter;

2. If the issue is not resolved, then schedule an appointment with the chair of the Department of Education or the director of education on the Gulfport campus;

3. If the issue is not resolved, submit a written petition to the Professional Standards Committee for a hearing. After this hearing, a decision will be given to the student in writing regarding the outcome.

4. If the issue is not resolved, the student has the right to appeal to the vice president of academic affairs who will review all evidence and reports.

Fingerprinting and Criminal Records Check

As a result of Senate Bill #2658, the legislature requires fingerprinting and criminal records and background checks for all new hires in Mississippi public school districts. In addition, some school districts are requiring student teachers to subsidize the cost of their own fingerprinting and background checks for clearance to student teach in their district. Students may be required to provide evidence of compliance with SB 2658 to enter schools for observation, practicum experiences, or student teaching.

The Mississippi Department of Education in partnership with the state school districts requires a certified background check and clearance for all university education students entering schools for observation, practica hours, and the Senior Student Teaching Experience. This includes all courses with observations or practica activities requiring education students to spend time in a public or private school.

All education programs (biology education, social studies education, English education, mathematics education, art education, music education, physical education, and elementary education) will be required to be cleared by the certified background check by August 24, 2009.