

YOUR DEGREE DOESN'T MATTER.

You've studied long and hard. You've kept up your grades. You've worked many hours for your degree. And finally you land that important interview, the one for your dream job, the one that will send you sailing off on the long and glorious career you've set your heart on.

After the interview, you hear from the company's Human Resources department. They loved you; they think you're just what they've been looking for—and your starting salary is even better than you had hoped. There's just one more requirement left before they can make the formal offer:

a background check.

And there it is—the question that leaves you with a sickening feeling in the pit of your stomach—the one that asks if you've ever been convicted of an alcohol-related misdemeanor or felony.

A lot of students don't realize how one moment of bad judgment can mean that their degree is worthless.

Convictions including:

- carrying or manufacturing a false I.D.,
- misrepresentation of your age to purchase or attempt to purchase liquor or malt or brewed beverages,
- driving under the influence,
- disorderly conduct, or
- purchasing and/or furnishing liquor or malt or brewed beverages to minors,

can mean that a number of occupations, from real estate broker to funeral director to chiropractor, will remain beyond your reach.

Many professions that require further licensing or certification beyond your degree may be unattainable if you have been convicted of an alcohol-related offense in Pennsylvania.

If there's one lesson you take to heart as you work towards your degree, make it this one: act with responsibility when it comes to alcohol, or your degree may turn out to be worth nothing more than the paper it's printed on.

See inside of brochure for a list of professions that may be denied to you for alcohol-related misdemeanors or felonies.

Section 9124 of the PA Crimes Code directs state-licensing agencies to consider convictions, but the convictions alone shall not preclude the issuance of a license, certificate, registration, or permit. Section 9125 of the PA Crimes Code allows potential employers to use criminal history record information in the hiring process. Felony and misdemeanor convictions may be considered only to the extent to which they relate to the applicant's suitability for employment in the position for which he has applied.

Although certification or licensure is not necessary for many volunteer positions, some of them require background checks. Examples include: camp counselor, student teacher, Little League coach, YM/WCA volunteer, community coach (soccer, baseball, cheerleading), 4-H Youth Development Educator, Sunday School teacher, nursing home volunteer. (4)

The PLCB offers a variety of alcohol education materials free of charge. For more information, please contact us:

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

Alcohol Education, Room 602
Northwest Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17124-0001

www.lcb.state.pa.us/edu/

1 (800) 453-PLCB (7522)

If using a TTY line, please call (717) 772-3725

Pennsylvania Liquor
Control Board 
Alcohol Education

Violate PA's statutes regarding alcohol and all you may hear is

YOUR DEGREE DOESN'T MATTER.



Pennsylvania Liquor
Control Board 
Alcohol Education

The following occupations may be denied to you for misdemeanor and felony alcohol statute convictions.

EDUCATION AND LICENSE			CRIMINAL VIOLATION		
OCCUPATION	REQUIREMENTS		MISDEMEANOR	FELONY	RESULT
Accountant	Bachelor's Degree (1)	License - State Board of Accountancy (3)	X	X	(§9.3A) Must represent good moral character; (§9.9a) Board may refuse issue licensure/certification (3)
Agent: ATF, DEA, FBI, Secret Service	Bachelor's Degree (1)	N/A	X	X	Fail mandatory security clearances; ineligible for employment; (1,3)
Architect	Bachelor's Degree(1)	Pass Architect Registration Examination; License - Architects Licensure Board (3)	X	X	(§34.8) Must be an individual of good character; (§34.19) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Chiropractor	Doctor of Chiropractic Degree from 4 year chiropractic college (1)	License - State Board of Chiropractic (3)	X	X	(§625.501) Must represent good moral character; (§625.506) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Dentist	Obtain Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree from accredited dental school; pass National Board Dental Exam and practical exam (1)	License - State Board of Dentistry (3)	X	X	(§123.1) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Engineer	Bachelor's or Master's Degree	Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.), 4-8 years progressive work experience, pass State Boards; (3)	X	X	(§151.4) Must represent good moral character (3)
Funeral Director	Associate Degree in Funeral Service Education; pass National Board Exam, 1-2 years apprenticeship (1)	License - State Board of Funeral Directors (3)	X	X	(§479.11) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Insurance Adjuster	Associate or Bachelor's Degree (1)	License - Insurance Commissioner (3)	NA	X	(§1606) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Law Enforcement: Police Officer, (state, local & municipal)	Bachelor's Degree (1)	NA	X	X	Fail mandatory background checks; denied employment (1)
Lawyer/Attorney	Juris Doctor (J.D.) from an American Bar Association accredited law school; pass Bar Exam (1)	License - State & Federal Courts/Bar Associations (2)	X	X	Lacks "good moral character"; ineligible for admission into the Bar (2)
Medical Doctor	Obtain Medical Doctorate Degree (M.D.) from accredited school of medicine, 3-8 years Internship/Residency (1)	License - State Board of Medicine (3)	X	X	(§422.22) Must represent good moral character; (§422.41) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Nurse	Degree from approved nursing program (1)	License - State Board of Nursing (3)	X	X	(§216) Must represent good moral character; (§216, 224) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification up to 10 years
Nursing Home Administrator, Health Services Manager	Master's Degree in Health Services Administration (1)	License - State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators (3)	X	X	(§1106) Must represent good moral character; Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Occupational Therapy	Bachelor's Degree; pass National Certification Exam (1)	License - State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure (3)	X	X	(§1508) Must represent good moral character; (§1516) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Pharmacist	Obtain Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.); pass N. American Pharmacist Licensure Exam	License - State Board of Pharmacy (3)	X	X	(§390-3) Must represent good moral & professional character; (§390-3, 390-5) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification for up to 10 years (3)
Physical Therapy	Master's Degree (1); pass National Certification Exam (1)	License - State Board of Physical Therapy (3)	X	X	(§1309.1) Must represent good moral character; (§1311) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Psychologist	Obtain Doctorate Degree, Internship/Residency (1)	License - State Board of Psychology (3)			(§1206) Must represent good moral character; (§1208) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Real Estate Broker	Associate or Bachelor's Degree (1)	License - State Real Estate Commission (3)	NA	X	(§455.604) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Social Worker	Master's Degree (1)	License - State Board of Social Work Examiners (3)	X	X	(§1907) Must represent good moral character; (§1911) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Speech/Language Therapist	Master's Degree (1)	License - State Board of Examiners of Speech-Language and Hearing (3)	X	X	(§1707) Must represent good moral character; (§1710) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (3)
Teacher	Bachelor's Degree leading to Master's or Equivalency; pass competency exams (1)	License - State Department of Education (1)	X	X	Fail mandatory background checks; Denied employment (4)
Veterinarian	Obtain Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree (D.V.M. or V.M.D.) (1)	License - Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine (3)	NA	X	(§485.9) Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification for up to 10 years (3)

Sources: 1) U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm). 2) PA Bulletin – Admission to Practice Law (www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol29/29-50/2081.html) 3) Purdon's Penna. Statutes Annotated, Title 63, Professions and Occupations 4) PA Crimes Code, Section 9124.

*The PLCB recognizes this is not a comprehensive list of all occupations requiring licensure/certification.
The information contained herein is to be used only as a guide.*