

# Mount Vernon Nazarene University Education Department

## State of Ohio Teacher Licensure Awareness of Professional Conduct Statement of Assurance of Good and Moral Character

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The Ohio Department of Education is committed to ensuring that all students receive instruction from educators who can provide a safe, supportive, and healthy school environment. By Ohio statute, those persons who have demonstrated “unbecoming conduct” may not be licensed to teach in Ohio’s schools. The Office of Professional Conduct at the Ohio Department of Education is responsible for raising awareness among pre-service educators for what unbecoming conduct is for educators and has provided teacher educators with the following list of offenses that may keep a prospective teacher from gaining licensure.

### 1. Drug Abuse

- corrupting another with drugs
- trafficking in drugs
- illegal manufacture of drugs or cultivation of marijuana
- illegal assembly or possession of chemicals for the manufacture of drugs
- funding of drug or marijuana trafficking
- illegal administration or distribution of anabolic steroids
- permitting drug abuse
- deception to obtain a dangerous drug
- illegal possession of drug documents
- tampering with drugs
- trafficking in harmful intoxicants; improperly dispensing or distributing nitrous oxide
- illegal dispensing of drug samples
- possession of counterfeit controlled substances

### 2. Violence

- aggravated murder/murder
- voluntary/involuntary manslaughter
- reckless homicide
- felonious assault/aggravated assault
- permitting child abuse
- kidnapping/abduction
- criminal child enticement
- extortion
- aggravated arson
- aggravated robbery/robbery/aggravated burglary
- inciting to violence
- aggravated riot/riot
- inducing panic
- intimidation/intimidation of attorney, victim or witness in criminal case
- escape
- improper discharge firearm at or into habitation; school-related offenses
- illegal conveyance or possession of deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance or illegal possession of an object indistinguishable from a firearm in school safety zone/courthouse
- improperly furnishing firearms to minor
- unlawful possession of dangerous ordinance; illegally manufacturing or processing explosives
- endangering children
- soliciting or providing support for act of terrorism/making terroristic threat/terrorism
- unlawful possession or use of a hoax weapon of mass destruction
- contaminating substance for human consumption or use; contamination with hazardous chemical, biological, or radioactive substance; spreading false report/placing harmful objects in food/confection.
- retaliation
- unlawful abortion/performing or inducing unlawful abortion upon minor/abortion manslaughter
- interference of custody/child stealing

### 3. Sexually-oriented

- rape
- sexual battery
- unlawful sexual conduct with a minor
- gross sexual imposition/sexual imposition
- importuning
- compelling prostitution/promoting prostitution
- procuring
- soliciting/loitering to engage in solicitation/prostitution; after positive HIV test
- disseminating matter harmful to juveniles
- displaying harmful to juveniles
- pandering obscenity; involving a minor
- pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor
- deception to obtain matter harmful to juveniles
- compelling acceptance of objectionable materials
- illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material or performance
- felonious sexual penetration

4. Theft

- burglary
- impersonating an officer
- theft in office
- perjury
- bribery

If you have pleaded guilty to or been convicted of any of the above, it is important that you contact the Administrator of Investigations, Office of Professional Conduct, Ohio Department of Education (614/466-5638) on your own or through an attorney in order to determine if you are ineligible for an Ohio teacher license prior to continuing to pursue a teaching license through Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Please note that pleading “no contest” is equivalent to pleading “guilty” and that the Ohio Department of Education may investigate court records that have been sealed or expunged.

Prior to gaining licensure in Ohio, you will be subject to a Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation (BCII) review. If you have not lived in Ohio for the past five years, you will also be subject to a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) review. When you complete your application for licensure, you will be required to provide documentation for any felony or misdemeanor other than a traffic offense.

Effective July 1, 1987, The Ohio Department of Education requires that all students admitted to Teacher Licensure Programs in Ohio must be deemed to be of Good Moral Character as defined below (Rule 3301-21-01 of the Administrative Code):

“A person shall be deemed to be of good moral character provided that said individual has not pleaded guilty to or been convicted of any felony, any violation, or any offense that is not a minor misdemeanor, or any substantively comparable ordinance of a municipal corporation or of another state. An individual who has pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of any such offense may have an application for certification considered by the State Board of Education, provided said individual meets the conditions specified in Rule 3301-23-23 of the Administrative Code.”

Mount Vernon Nazarene University is, therefore, obligated to require that all students pursuing programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels leading to Ohio teacher licensure sign the following statement indicating that they are of good moral character, as defined by the above Rule.

***I, \_\_\_\_\_, assure the Education Department of Mount Vernon Nazarene University that I have been made aware of, read, understand, and meet the good moral character standard of the State of Ohio Revised Code as defined above.***

**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions about this information, please contact Dr. Bevin Shiverdecker, Director of Field & Clinical Experiences, Mount Vernon Nazarene University Education Department.