

## SC Certification Background Clearance for Internship II & SC Initial Certification

Students currently enrolled in an approved teacher education program must apply for the Student Teaching Clearance and be cleared before Internship II begins. Completion of this process is required to participate in Internship II by the state and represents the first official step in certification within the state. All candidates, regardless of eventual plans for certification within the state, must meet this requirement fully to enter the Internship II experience.

Teacher candidates must ensure that their South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) application files are complete approximately 6 months prior to their Internship II, according to the following deadlines:

- Fall semester Internship II: February 15 (i.e., the February prior to Internship II)
- Spring semester Internship II: June 15 (i.e., the June prior to Internship II)

In order for your file to be complete, you need to be sure that you:

- 1) Complete the [Application for Student Teaching Approval and Initial Certification](#) (CATS Portal online). **This step must be completed prior to all other steps.**
- 2) Submit the non-refundable application fee (\$105) ([online](#))
- 3) Complete the [Fingerprinting Process and Criminal Records Review](#).

Once all application requirements are fulfilled, your Internship II Clearance will be displayed when utilizing the [View Certification Status](#) feature on the SCDE website.

Note about background reports: If more than 18 months have passed between the date of your original (or most recent) certification background check and the time you complete your degree and required examinations, you will need to complete the fingerprinting and background check process (with fees) again. Therefore, if your plans concerning the scheduling of your Internship II experience have changed or if you will be extending your time at Winthrop beyond Internship II to complete coursework, you should speak with Student Academic Services about the most appropriate timing for your background check.

Please contact [Ms. Joanna Harris](#) with any questions or concerns.