

# YOUR DEGREE DOESN'T MATTER.

After countless hours of studying and years of focusing on achieving your degree, you land an important job interview. This interview is for the dream job that you've thought about even before college. This job could launch your career and set you on a new life journey.

However, there is one thing that could make or break you that has nothing to do with your academics:

**a background check.**

Certain convictions can mean that a number of occupations will be beyond reach. Many professions that require further licensing or certification beyond a degree may be unattainable if one has been convicted of an alcohol-related offense in Pennsylvania.

Some alcohol-related convictions include:

- Carrying or manufacturing a false ID
- Misrepresentation of age to purchase or attempt to purchase liquor, wine or malt or brewed beverages
- Driving under the influence
- Disorderly conduct
- Purchasing and/or furnishing liquor or malt or brewed beverages to minors

Underage drinking is a summary offense in Pennsylvania. While a summary offense will not prevent the attainment of a license, it will show up on a background check. A prospective employer may consider the offense as a reason not to hire a potential employee.

There are also volunteer jobs that do not need licensure/certification but may require background checks. Some programs include: camp counselor, student teacher, Little League coach, YMCA volunteer, community coaches (soccer, baseball, cheerleading), 4-H youth development educator, Sunday school teacher, nursing home volunteer.

Section 9124 of the PA Crimes Code directs state licensing agencies to consider convictions of an applicant, 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/she has applied.



**For more information,  
please contact us:**

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board  
Bureau of Alcohol Education  
[www.lcb.state.pa.us](http://www.lcb.state.pa.us)

[ra-lbeducation@pa.gov](mailto:ra-lbeducation@pa.gov)  
800.453.PLCB (7522)

Hearing impaired TDD/TTY 717.772.3725



This information is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys information pertinent to alcohol-related offenses. For more information or further clarification, please contact your local district attorney's office or a private attorney.

**VIOLATE PENNSYLVANIA'S STATUTES  
REGARDING ALCOHOL AND YOU MAY HEAR**

# YOUR DEGREE DOESN'T MATTER



## THE FOLLOWING OCCUPATIONS MAY BE DENIED TO YOU FOR MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY ALCOHOL STATUTE CONVICTIONS

EDUCATION AND LICENSE			CRIMINAL VIOLATION
OCCUPATION	REQUIREMENTS	LICENSES REQUIRED	RESULT
Accountant	Bachelor's degree <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Accountancy <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (Title 63, §9.4n); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§9.9a)
Architect	Bachelor's degree <sup>1</sup> ; Pass Architect Registration Examination	License — Architects Licensure Board <sup>3</sup>	Must be an individual of good character (§34.8); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§34.19)
Chiropractic Doctor	Doctor of Chiropractic degree <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Chiropractic <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§625.501); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§625.506)
Dentist	Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from accredited dental school; pass National Board Dental Exam and practice exam <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Dentistry <sup>3</sup>	Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§123.1)
Funeral Director	Associate degree in Funeral Service Education; pass National Board Exam, 1-2 years apprenticeship	License — State Board of Funeral Directors <sup>3</sup>	Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§479.11)
Insurance Adjuster	High school diploma but associate or bachelor's degree may be required for higher positions <sup>1</sup>	License — Insurance Commissioner <sup>3</sup>	Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§1606)
Law Enforcement: Police Officer (state, local & municipal)	Bachelor's degree <sup>1</sup>	N/A	Fail mandatory background checks; denied employment <sup>1</sup>
Lawyer/Attorney	Juris Doctor (JD) from American Bar Association-accredited law school; pass bar exam <sup>1</sup>	License — state & federal courts/bar associations <sup>4</sup>	Lacks “good moral character”; ineligible for admission into the bar <sup>2</sup>
Medical Doctor	Medical Doctorate (MD) from accredited school of medicine; 3-8 years internship/residency <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Medicine <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§422.22); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§422.41)
Nurse	Degree from approved nursing program <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Nursing <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§216, 224); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification up to 10 years.
Nursing Home Administrator, Health Services Manager	Bachelor's degree or master's degree in health services administration; requirements vary by facility <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§1106); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup>
Occupational Therapist	Master's degree; pass national certification exam <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§1508); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§1516)
Pharmacist	Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD); pass North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam	License — State Board of Pharmacy <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral & professional character (§390-3); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification (§390-3, 390-5)
Physical Therapist	Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and physical therapist license <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Physical Therapy <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§1309.1); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§1311)
Psychologist	Doctorate degree, internship/residency <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Psychology <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§1206); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§1208)
Real Estate Broker	Requirements vary by state; all states require candidates to be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma and pass a licensing exam <sup>1</sup>	License — State Real Estate Commission <sup>3</sup>	Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§455.604)
Clinical Social Worker	Master's degree and two years post-master's experience in a supervised clinical setting <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Social Work Examiners <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§1907); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§1911)
Speech/Language Therapist	Master's degree <sup>1</sup>	License — State Board of Examiners of Speech/Language and Hearing <sup>3</sup>	Must represent good moral character (§1707); Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§1710)
Teacher	Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 cumulative GPA and supervised student teaching experience <sup>2</sup>	License — State Department of Education <sup>1</sup>	Fail mandatory background checks; may be denied employment <sup>5</sup>
Veterinarian	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (DVM or VMD) <sup>1</sup>	License — Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine <sup>3</sup>	Board may refuse to issue licensure/certification <sup>3</sup> (§485.9)

- 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.
- Many healthcare degrees, such as dietitian or radiologic technologist, also have certification requirements, which can be delayed or denied due to a criminal record related to alcohol use.
- If you need to have a valid driver's license for a job, then a DUI conviction could impact your eligibility for that job.

- Sources: 1 — U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook ([www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)).
- 2 — PA Department of Education Certificate Requirements.
- 3 — Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated, Title 63, Professions and Occupations.
- 4 — Rules 203 and 204 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.
- 5 — PA Crimes Code, Section 9124.