

## Campus Safety, Legal Risks Are a Growing Concern for Colleges & Universities

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According to a July 2010 article in *USA Today*, colleges and universities are relying on or considering student background checks as part of the admissions process as a result of campus violence in recent years. The standard had been to ask prospective students if they had committed a crime in self-disclosure questions, on their application or on the Common Application.

Although higher education routinely conducts background checks on faculty and staff, some schools resort to conducting background checks on prospective students only if they admit to a crime. Many school administrators feel that simply asking a student if they have a criminal past is unreliable because a student can easily omit the information.

In the aftermath of the 2004 murder of a University of North Carolina student by another student who had a history of violence against women, the university system implemented a policy to conduct background checks on students who raise red flags.

In another case at the University of Virginia a male lacrosse player accused of killing another student neglected to inform the university about a previous arrest.



Certainly even if background checks are mandatory for all prospective students it's impossible to tell if students with a criminal history will commit crimes again, but it can alert school officials to be on the lookout for dangerous or suspicious behavior. While conducting background checks on incoming students is not a panacea, they can help provide information that can lead to a safer campus.

Accutrace offers a simple solution to conduct background checks on prospective students. **DirectCheck™** is a quick, simple online process that directs applicants to your custom-branded page to self-register for their own background checks. You determine the parameters of the background check. **DirectCheck™** can be configured so that the student can pay with a credit card or the school can be invoiced. This simple process can help keep your campus safe and your reputation secure.

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To learn more about how to keep your campus safe, please contact an Accutrace screening specialists at 888-548-7223 (888-54 TRACE) or <mailto:sales@accu-trace.com>.

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