Rule Statement

This Rule is required by The Texas A&M University System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants. Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) shall perform criminal history investigations of current employees and applicants for employment as provided in System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants, and by this Rule.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL

1.1 In an effort to provide the safest possible environment for students, visitors, faculty and staff, TAMIU shall conduct criminal history investigations on applicants selected for employment.

1.2 All TAMIU employment positions, including student employment positions, are designated as security-sensitive.

2. PRE-EMPLOYMENT CRIMINAL HISTORY INVESTIGATION

2.1 All finalists, whether internal or external, for TAMIU employment, including student employment, shall be subject to a criminal history investigation before they are eligible to begin employment with TAMIU. If circumstances require that an offer or decision be made before the completion of the criminal history investigation, the offer must state that employment is contingent on the completion of a satisfactory criminal history investigation.

2.2 All finalists, whether internal or external, for TAMIU employment, including student employment, will be required to complete and sign a Criminal History Investigation Authorization Form, authorizing TAMIU to perform criminal history investigations as necessary to determine suitability for employment or continued employment. Individuals refusing to sign the authorization form for the criminal history investigation will not be eligible for employment with TAMIU.

2.3 The Human Resources Office is responsible for obtaining the Criminal History Investigation Authorization Form for finalists for TAMIU employment, excluding student employment and graduate assistant (GA) employment which are addressed in Section 2.4 of this Rule. The signed form for finalist will be forwarded by the Human Resources Office to the University Police Department (UPD). The UPD is responsible for conducting the criminal history investigation in accordance with System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants and this Rule, as well as for promptly communicating the results to the Human Resources Office.

2.4 For student employment, including graduate assistant (GA) employment, the administering office in charge of such employment (i.e., Financial Aid Office, Graduate Studies & Research Office) is responsible for obtaining the Criminal History Investigation Authorization Form from finalists for TAMIU employment. The signed form for finalist will be forwarded by the administering office to the University Police Department (UPD). The UPD is responsible for conducting the criminal history investigation in accordance with System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants and this Rule, as well as for promptly communicating the results to the Human Resources Office.

2.5 Every applicant for TAMIU employment will have, as permitted by law, the opportunity to request, receive, review, and correct information about themselves collected by or on behalf of TAMIU using the Criminal History Investigation Authorization Form.
3. SOURCES OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION

3.1 Criminal history investigations on finalists for TAMIU employment shall be conducted as follows: a) if the investigation is performed by a third-party vendor on behalf of TAMIU, it shall be run from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Crime Records-Public Site or any other publicly available local, state, or federal source, or b) if the investigation is performed by the UPD, it shall be run from the DPS Crime Records-Secure Site, the DPS Crime Records-Public Site, or any other publicly available local, state, or federal source.

3.2 Criminal history investigations on current TAMIU employees under Section 5 of this Rule shall be run from the DPS Crime Records-Public Site or any other publicly available local, state, or federal source.

4. FALSIFICATION OR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE CRIMINAL HISTORY

Falsification or failure by an employee or applicant to disclose criminal history will be handled in accordance with Section 4 of System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants.

5. POST-EMPLOYMENT CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS

5.1 Employees are Subject to Periodic Checks

5.1.1 All TAMIU employees’ criminal history record information is subject to review at any time as permitted by law. Periodic criminal history investigations shall be conducted at the discretion of the University. TAMIU employees who are applicants for another TAMIU position shall be checked as required by Section 2 of this Rule.

5.1.2 Criminal history investigations will also be required for all employees who are both under consideration for reclassification, transfer, demotion, or promotion and on whom the University did not previously conduct a criminal history investigation.

5.2 Employee Reporting of Criminal Arrests, Charges, or Convictions

5.2.1 In accordance with Section 5.2 of System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants, employees are obligated to report to their supervisor, within 24 hours or as soon as possible thereafter, any criminal arrests, criminal charges, or criminal convictions, excluding misdemeanor traffic offenses punishable only by fine. Any necessary review or investigation will be handled pursuant to the Regulation.

5.3 Every TAMIU employee will have, as permitted by law, the opportunity to request, receive, review and correct information about themselves collected by or on behalf of TAMIU.

6. APPEALS

Any employee or applicant alleging unlawful discrimination or wishing to appeal an action taken under this Rule may do so pursuant to Section 7 of System Regulation 33.99.14 Criminal History Record Information—Employees and Applicants.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY
Office of Human Resources